Warning for China

Biden says there will be consequences if China backs Russia. **NEWS, PAGE 4**

Catalytic converter thefts

Police seeing an increase in thefts throughout the state. **CONNECTICUT, PAGE 1**

Tourney opener

UConn women open NCAA Tournament against Mercer today. **SPORTS, PAGE 1**

Showers likely

Afternoon t-storm possible; high of 58. **SPORTS, PAGE 8**

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Opponents fight land parcel sale

Conservationists push to prevent Boy Scouts from selling Deer Lake property to developers

By Alex Putterman
Hartford Courant

Conservationists in Connecticut are scrambling to stop the sale of a large parcel of land in Killingworth, which they say should be maintained as a camping ground or nature reserve.

The land, a 253-acre parcel known as Deer Lake, is currently owned by the Connecticut Yankee Council of the Boy Scouts of America. The organization announced last month that it plans to sell to a private buyer unless it receives a higher bid by March 31.

Conservationists in the area have urged the council to instead accept a lower offer from the Trust for Public Land, which would buy the property for its assessed value and maintain it as is. As they see it, selling Deer Lake to private developers would violate the spirit of the Connecticut Yankee Council, which operates as a tax-exempt nonprofit.

"The fact that they're considering, even thinking about, selling this property for development is, to me, in complete opposition to their mission," said David Anderson, land campaigns manager for Save the Sound, a Connecticut-based environmental group.

"They're acting with the mentality of a private corporation, but they're not a private corporation, they're a nonprofit," he said.

According to Save the Sound, the private buyer has offered $4.6 million, while the Trust for Public Land has offered $2.4 million. The Connecticut Yankee Council declined to comment Tuesday beyond a statement issued in February, in which the organization said selling Deer Lake was a "difficult decision" that was nonetheless necessary amid a decline in membership.

"Simply put, we own too many properties for the membership we have today," the council said.

Turn to Land, Page 3

FUNERAL OF ROCKY HILL FIRE CAPT. JAMES LAMARRE



A FINAL SALUTE



ABOVE: Gloves are dropped on the casket of Rocky Hill Fire Department Capt. James Lamarre during funeral services at Center Cemetery in Rocky Hill on Friday. Lamarre, an Army veteran and captain with 27 years of service in the Rocky Hill Fire Department, died March 8 after a monthslong battle with work-related cancer. **RIGHT:** Standing with his grandfather and retired Hartford firefighter Gary Sharkevich, 3-year-old Luca Finocchiaro salutes as the casket of Lamarre arrives at St. Josephine Bakhita Parish-St. James Church.
MARK MIRKO PHOTOS/HARTFORD COURANT

WAR IN UKRAINE

Russia's history guides tactics

Deliberate shelling of civilian areas part of battle doctrine

By Max Fisher
The New York Times

As Russian artillery and rockets land on Ukrainian hospitals and apartment blocks, devastating residential districts with no military value, the world is watching with horror what is, for Russia, an increasingly standard practice.

Its forces conducted similar attacks in Syria, bombing hospitals and other civilian structures as part of Russia's intervention to prop up that country's government.

Moscow went even further in Chechnya, a border region that had sought independence in the Soviet Union's 1991 breakup. During two formative wars there, Russia's artillery and air forces turned city blocks to rubble, and its ground troops massacred civilians in what was widely seen as a deliberate campaign to terrorize the population into submission.

Now Vladimir Putin, whose rise to Russia's presidency paralleled and was in some ways cemented by the Chechen wars, appears to be deploying a similar playbook in Ukraine, albeit so far only by increments.

These tactics reflect something more specific than simple ruthlessness alone. They emerged from Russia's experiences in a string of wars that led its leaders to conclude, for reasons both strategic and ideological, that bombarding whole populations was not only acceptable but militarily sound.

They also reflect the circumstances of an authoritarian state with few allies, enabling the Kremlin to ignore and even embrace revulsion at its military conduct — or so Russian leaders seem to believe.

"Massive devastation and collateral fatalities among the civilian population are accept-

Turn to Ukraine, Page 2

State police firings: 8 recruits cheated

Internal investigation finds they accessed test online in advance

By Alex Putterman
Hartford Courant

Eight state police recruits were fired after accessing an exam online before they were supposed to complete it, an internal investigation made public Friday revealed.

According to the investigation, the exam was supposed to be administered in person on Jan. 10 but was uploaded online that morning in case some recruits needed to take it remotely. The eight recruits accused of cheating allegedly opened the test online and began filling it out before the allotted two-hour testing period.

Witnesses reported two recruits were cheating, and six others confessed after a commander threatened to have IT look through their computers.

State police announced earlier this week that eight recruits had been fired for cheating on an exam.

"This was a very unfortunate set of circumstances, and allegations such as these are not taken lightly," said Colonel Stavros Mellekas, the state police commander. "From start to finish, we demand that our recruits maintain the integrity of the Connecticut state police."

According to the investigation, which was conducted by the state police's Bureau of Professional Standards and Compliance, the test in question was originally scheduled to take place remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic before being switch to in-person several days in advance.

While most recruits opened the test, which had been uploaded to an online portal under "documents" instead of "tests," the majority closed it when they realized it was the exam they were set to take later that day.

In written statements submit-

Turn to Recruits, Page 2

Murphy says he'll make push for more aid to Ukraine



U.S. Sen. Chris Murphy addresses U.S. aid to Ukraine on Friday at the state Capitol in Hartford. He said he "will continue to press for aid and support." **DANIELA ALTIMARI/ HARTFORD COURANT**

By Daniela Altimari
Hartford Courant

President Biden's pledge to provide Ukraine with an additional $800 million to bolster security measures won't be the last assistance package the U.S. offers in response to the Russian invasion, said U.S. Sen. Chris Murphy.

"I'm going to continue to press for aid and support for Ukraine," Murphy said Friday at a news conference outside the state Capitol. "My fear is that this war is not close to over."

Biden's aid offer came after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy made an impassioned plea earlier this week on behalf of his embattled country. The package includes 800 Stinger anti-aircraft systems as well as 100 drones, shoulder-mounted anti-armor missile systems, grenade launchers and rifles, pistols, machine guns and shotguns.

"President Zelenskyy challenged us to do something from the assault from the air," Murphy said. "And we're doing that."

Russian President Vladimir Putin, Murphy said, "has decided to pursue a policy of brutalization, deliberately targeting civilians ... with the goal of bludgeoning the Ukrainian people into submission. I can't imagine what President Zelenskyy is going through right now, but he has been heroic, as have the Ukrainian people in the face of these attacks."

The Connecticut Democrat, who serves on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, first met Zelenskyy in 2019, shortly after

Turn to Murphy, Page 2

Who's on the hook for unemployment insurance?

Connecticut businesses asked the General Assembly to help pay down more than $800 million in unemployment insurance from when joblessness soared in pandemic. **Connecticut, Page 1**

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FROM PAGE ONE



A building in part of Kharkiv still under Ukrainian control reflects damage from Russian bombing. **ANDREW MARIENKO/AP**

Ukraine

from Page 1

able in order to limit one's own casualties," Alexei Arbatov, a prominent Russian military strategist and at the time a federal legislator, wrote in 2000, during Russia's second war in Chechnya.

"The use of force is the most efficient problem solver, if applied decisively and massively," Arbatov wrote, adding that international horror at Russian actions should be "discounted."

But the shocking human toll that champions of this approach dismiss as irrelevant may be part of why it has so far failed in Ukraine.

Global outrage did not turn back Russian advances in Chechnya or Syria. But it is now driving the sanctions and military support that are devastating Russia's economy and miring its invasion in quagmire — underscoring that Moscow's way of war may not be as ruthlessly pragmatic as it believes.

The United States, of course, also frequently kills civilians in war, in drone and other airstrikes whose toll the U.S. treats as a regrettable but acceptable cost. Although the intention behind this strategy differs from Russia's, the distinction may be of little significance for the dead.

The Soviet military emerged from World War II with a mission to never again allow a foreign invasion of the homeland, growing formidable enough to stand toe-to-toe with the combined forces of NATO.

But in 1979 it faced a threat for which it was poorly suited: an insurgency in neighboring Afghanistan, where Soviet forces intervened that year.

The Soviets suffered heavy casualties at the Afghan rebels' hands before limping home in humiliating defeat a decade later.

Over the war's course, Soviet officers came to favor air power as well as large-scale shows of violence.

Then, in 1991, the Soviet Union collapsed, and with it much of what had been the Soviet military. That year, leaders in Chechnya began asserting the region's independence. In 1994, Moscow ordered a major assault to retake control.

Russian troops again faced heavy losses against insurgents. A monthslong siege of Grozny, Chechnya's capital, obliterated much of the city and killed thousands of civilians. Still, Russian troops withdrew in a 1996 defeat.

These costly defeats instilled a reluctance to expose ground troops to direct combat. Moscow compensated by using its predominant tools of war — the tanks and artillery it had amassed to match NATO — against the civilian populations it now saw, in counterinsurgency campaigns, as the enemy.

So when Moscow launched a second invasion of Chechnya, in 1999, its top general said that, if Russia had erred, it was in having "sinned by being too kind-hearted," pledging even greater violence.

That conflict, along with the Russian military's adaptations for a new Europe in which NATO forces now vastly outmatched their own, led to a new sort of doctrine.

"Assault by troops, which previously predetermined the outcome of the battles, will be used today, and even more so in the future, only to complete the defeat of the enemy," A.A. Korabelnikov, a Russian officer, wrote in a 2019 white paper.

Instead, artillery and air power would do much of the work, inflicting devastating damage from afar.

Murphy

from Page 1

he was elected president of Ukraine.

"I'm a huge fan," Murphy said. "I think I've met privately with him five or six times over the years. He's grown into an extraordinary leader."

Zelenskyy, a former actor and comedian, has proven himself a skilled communicator and adept user of social media to win public support for his cause.

"We are all inspired by this magnificent young man, President Zelenskyy, and the kind of heroism and leadership that he's shown," said Alexander Kuzma, executive director of the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation, who joined Murphy at the Capitol press conference.

Kuzma called Zelenskyy the "Winston Churchill of our generation."

In a dramatic speech to Congress on Wednesday, Zelenskyy invoked the Sept. 11 attacks, Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech and Pearl Harbor. His selfie videos from the streets of Kyiv have showcased his mix of vulnerability and resolve.

"This is a guy who was a master of communication before he ran for the presidency and it's just so interesting watching someone with this very unique skill set use those skills in the middle of a war," said Murphy, who is also a skilled user of social media.



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, left, greets U.S. Sens. Ron Johnson, second from left, Chris Murphy and John Barrasso during their visit in Kyiv, Ukraine, on Feb. 14, 2020. **UKRAINIAN PRESIDENTIAL PRESS OFFICE**

"He understands the importance of authentic communication," Murphy said. "He realizes that those videos of him walking through the streets of Ukraine are going to command much more attention than him behind a podium."

"You have to have a level of confidence just to do a selfie video and hit send," Murphy added. "Zelenskyy has no shortage of confidence. In every meeting I have had with him, you see zero signs that he is intimated by any of the settings he is in."

Murphy and Republican Rob Portman of Ohio are the two senators who have had "the most direct face time" with Zelenskyy, according to Politico.

Murphy was part of the first delegation to meet Zelenskyy after the 2019 election. The Ukrainian president would soon be dragged into U.S. political affairs, after President Trump implored him to investigate Hunter Biden and then-presidential candidate Joe Biden. The call resulted in Trump's first impeachment trial.

"I hate the fact that [Zelenskyy's] introduction to the United States was being used as a political pawn but I thought he handled that well," Murphy said. "He went quiet for a little while, he didn't talk as much about U.S.-Ukraine relations during the Trump era because I think he just felt he had to ride it out."

When the Russian attacks began, Zelenskyy's political skills made him an effective advocate for the Ukrainian cause. Murphy praised his leadership in the face of an "unprovoked, unjustified and brutal invasion by Vladimir Putin and the Russian army."

Recruits

from Page 1

ted to investigators, some of the fired recruits claimed they didn't realize the document they had accessed was a test and thought they were merely filling out a study guide, while others admitted to knowingly cheating.

State police union executive director Andrew Matthews has said he agreed with department officials' decision to fire the recruits.

"If you're going to cheat on a test, what else would you cheat on?" Matthews said. "You can't really do the job of a state trooper."

The firings come as Connecticut's state police are seeking to bolster their numbers, which have fallen over the past decade and could drop further with a wave of retirements expected in the coming weeks and months.

Still, State Rep. Greg Howard, a Stonington police detective who serves as the ranking House Republican on the legislature's public safety committee, said this week that the recruits should be held to high standards.

"We need new troopers, but the reality is we need good troopers," Howard said. "What we don't need is people not of the right moral character that are just going to stain the profession."

The remaining 53 members of the 131st Training Troop are scheduled to graduate from the state police academy on March 24.

Alex Putterman can be reached at aputterman@courant.com.

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Helen Bennett
Executive Editor

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Vice President, Advertising
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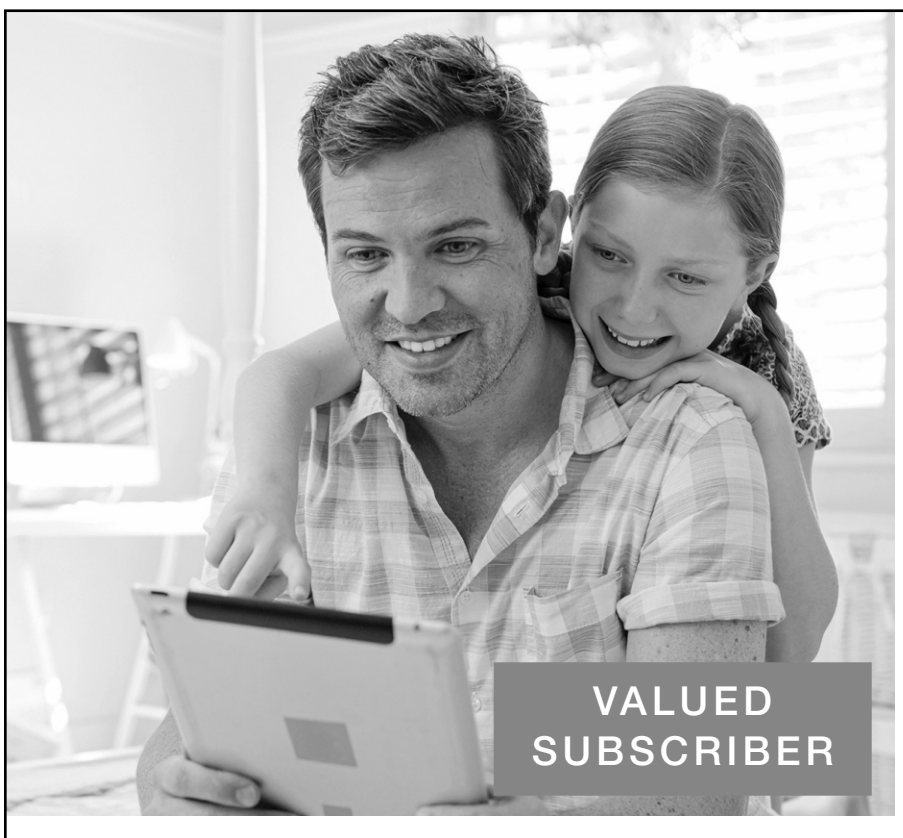
LOTTERY
Friday, March 18

PLAY3 DAY
1 6 4 **WB:** 1

PLAY4 DAY
3 3 8 7 **WB:** 8

The late lotto numbers were not drawn in time for this edition. For results, please visit courant.com/lottery.

THURSDAY'S LATE NUMBERS
PLAY3 NIGHT
2 6 2 **WB:** 5
PLAY4 NIGHT
2 7 7 6 **WB:** 9
CASH 5
2 8 13 28 29
LUCKY FOR LIFE
10 26 28 42 45 **LB:** 6
Tuesday's est. Lotto jackpot: $1.4 million
Tonight's est. Powerball jackpot: $147 million



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FROM PAGE ONE

Cuban Americans deeply divided

Beneficiaries of '60s resettlement plan, archbishop at odds

By Patricia Mazzei
The New York Times



Carmen Valdivia came to the U.S. from Cuba in the 1960s under Operation Pedro Pan. **MELANIE METZ/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

MIAMI — The state was threatening the Roman Catholic Church's ability to shelter immigrant children when Archbishop Thomas Wenski of Miami went for South Florida's emotional jugular: He compared unaccompanied children crossing the border today to those who fled Communist Cuba six decades ago without their parents.

Offended by the comparison, angry Cuban Americans called Spanish-language radio. They wrote letters to the editor. A discussion at the American Museum of the Cuban Diaspora to denounce the archbishop's comments turned emotional. Gov. Ron DeSantis, a Republican, who had directed his administration to stop renewing shelter licenses, called the comparison to Cuban exiles who had arrived legally "disgusting."

Wenski and his backers, including a different group of Cuban Americans, pressed on. A news conference to accuse the governor of politicking when children's lives were at stake. An appearance by an unaccompanied Honduran boy who had been recently reunited with his parents in the United States. And, in the weeks since, an onslaught of radio ads blasting the governor.

Even in Miami's knockabout politics, the scrap has been striking. It's exposing a deep divide among the former children of Operation Pedro Pan, the secret program run by the Catholic Church with help from the State Department that resettled some 14,000 young Cubans after the island's 1959 revolution. In the past, the program's beneficiaries, known as Pedro Pans, had largely avoided making internal rifts so public.

But for some Pedro Pans today, either Wenski's comparison went too far — or DeSantis' policy did.

"We are brothers and sisters, and we don't fight with each other," said Carmen Valdivia, who arrived at age 12 in 1962. But, she added, the archbishop and his allies "inserted us" into the debate. "And I resent that."

Immigration once seemed untouchable as a political issue in Florida, back when Republicans feared that espousing harsh measures would turn away Hispanics, who make up more than 25% of the state's population. President Donald Trump changed that when he won Florida in 2016 while embracing a hard line on immigration. DeSantis did the same two years later.

In 2019, DeSantis and the Republican-controlled Legislature banned so-called sanctuary cities and counties, though most analysts agreed that Florida did not have any. Last year, a federal judge struck down parts of the law, calling it racially motivated. The state has appealed.

Last week, lawmakers sent DeSantis a bill he has championed that would prohibit state and local agencies from doing business with companies that work as federal contractors transporting immigrants who crossed the border illegally. The state has not identified any such companies, Politico reported.

In this climate, the archbishop's analogy comparing Cuban children from 60 years ago to mostly Central American children now became contentious.

The church's position is that all children deserve assistance, even if they reached American soil without documents or with the help of paid smugglers. But critics argue that Operation Pedro Pan was an organized effort in which children — most of them from upper- and middle-class families — arrived on commercial flights with visa waivers, passports and vaccination records.

Because they were fleeing communism, Cuban Americans benefited from special immigration policies that allowed them to more easily remain in the United States. They cemented their power by working with both Democrats and Republicans, trying to keep the Cuba issue above the partisan fray. That too has become tainted by polarization.

In December, the governor directed the Florida Department of Children and Families not to issue or renew licenses for shelters that house unaccompanied minors who are not refugees, saying he objected to the fact that the federal government does not inform the state of how many immigrants it relocates to Florida or who they are.

About 11,000 unaccompanied minors were released to Florida shelters, foster families and relatives between October 2020 and September 2021, and more than 4,000 from October 2021 to January 2022, according to the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement.

Lawyers for the office have since told the shelters that they do not need a state license to continue operating. But the state's proposed new rule requires that a resettlement agreement between the state and federal governments be in place before the shelters can accept additional children.

The governor's directive prompted the already outspoken Wenski to write an opinion essay in January denouncing the possibility that the church's Cutler Bay shelter could lose its license. It houses about 50 children now, under COVID-19 protocols, and is one of more than a dozen such shelters in the state, though the only one run by the Catholic Church.

The archbishop, a son of Polish immigrants, is familiar with Miami's ethnic and racial divisions. For 18 years, he was the parish priest for predominantly Haitian churches, delivering Mass in Creole.

Today's unaccompanied minors did not get more than a passing mention when Wenski and several bishops met with DeSantis in February, the archbishop said.

Wenski said he asked the governor at the meeting for a "win-win" that would allow the governor to criticize federal immigration policy — which the archbishop called "chaotic" — while also keeping the shelters open. The governor did not engage, the archbishop said.

Four days later, DeSantis traveled to the American Museum of the Cuban Diaspora in Miami, where Valdivia, who is the museum's executive director, hosted several other Pedro Pans. They shared the governor's view that comparing them to today's unaccompanied minors is unfair.

Three days after that, Wenski held his news conference with a different group of Pedro Pans, the Honduran family and Mike Fernández, a health care executive who financed the radio ads against DeSantis.

"Children are children, and no child should be deemed 'disgusting,' especially by a public servant," Wenski said — though the governor had used the word "disgusting" for the comparison with the Pedro Pan program, not the unaccompanied minors themselves.

A spokesperson for DeSantis wrote on Twitter that the archbishop "lied."

Wenski acknowledged in the interview that his wording had been "imprecise" but maintained that the only difference between the Pedro Pan children and today's unaccompanied minors is their countries of origin.



The Connecticut Yankee Council is selling Deer Lake, a large parcel of land in Killingworth currently used for camping, hiking and rock climbing. **COURTESY PHOTOS**

Land

from Page 1

"While the outdoors are critical to delivering Scouting's mission of preparing youth for life, owning property is not."

According to the council, funds from the sale would be used to expand facilities and programs at Camp Sequassen in New Hartford and Hoyt Scout Camp in Redding.

Opponents of the Deer Lake sale hope public pressure will convince the Connecticut Yankee Council to prioritize conserving the land, which is currently used for camping, hiking, rock climbing and more.

As of Tuesday, a "Save Deer Lake" Facebook group had 1,600, and officials from the local first selectman to U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., had gotten involved.

"If you have been to Deer Lake, you know how pristine and precious this area is," Blumenthal said Tuesday. "It is of incalculable value for fishing, camping, hiking and just appreciation of outdoors."

Blumenthal said he hoped the Connecticut Yankee Council would sell for less than the private developers are offering and that he was working to secure federal funding to supplement the Trust for Public Land's bid.



A dining hall at Deer Lake.

"The more development there is in Connecticut and the more densely populated we are, the more critically important open space is," he said. "And once it's lost, there's no way to regain it."

In a statement, the Trust for Public Land called Deer Lake "an incredible geological wonder" and said it would continue working to acquire the land.

Ted Langevin, president of Pathfinders, Inc., a nonprofit seeking to raise money to purchase the land for conservation, noted the history of the Deer Lake site, as well as environmental benefits to preserving it. He said he hopes the Connecticut Yankee Council will see the land as more than just a dollar figure.

"We're trying to get the scouts to realize that this is a precious natural resource and their charge is to be conservation-minded," Langevin said. "They teach the outdoor code and that stuff, but they don't seem to be paying an awful lot of attention to it at the moment."

Alex Putterman can be reached at aputterman@courant.com.

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WAR IN UKRAINE

Putin at rally as troops press attack

Russian leader has praise for military, rails against foes

By Cara Anna
Associated Press



Russian President Vladimir Putin addresses the flag-waving crowd Friday in Moscow. **SERGEI GUNEYEV/SPUTNIK POOL PHOTO**

Vladimir Putin appeared at a huge flag-waving rally at a packed Moscow stadium Friday and lavished praise on his troops fighting in Ukraine, three weeks into the invasion that has led to heavier-than-expected Russian losses on the battlefield and increasingly authoritarian rule at home.

Meanwhile, the leader of Russia's delegation in diplomatic talks with Ukraine said the sides have narrowed their differences. The Ukrainian side said its position remained unchanged.

The Moscow rally came as Russian troops continued to rain lethal fire on Ukrainian cities, including the capital, Kyiv, and pounded an aircraft repair installation on the outskirts of Lviv, close to the Polish border.

"Shoulder to shoulder, they help and support each other," the Russian president said of the Kremlin's forces in a rare public appearance since the start of the war. "We have not had unity like this for a long time," he added to cheers from the crowd.

The show of support amid a burst of antiwar protests inside Russia led to allegations in some quarters that the rally — held officially to mark the eighth anniversary of Russia's annexation of Crimea, which was seized from Ukraine — was a manufactured display of patriotism.

Several Telegram channels critical of the Kremlin reported that students and employees of state institutions in a number of regions were ordered by superiors to attend rallies and concerts marking the anniversary. Those reports could not be independently verified.

Moscow police said more than 200,000 people were in and around the Luzhniki stadium. The event included patriotic songs, including a performance of "Made in the U.S.S.R.," with the opening lines "Ukraine and Crimea, Belarus and Moldova, it's all my country."

Seeking to portray the war as just, Putin paraphrased the Bible to say of Russia's troops: "There is no greater love than giving up one's soul for one's friends."

Taking to the stage where a sign read "For a world without Nazism," he railed against his foes in Ukraine as "neo-Nazis" and continued to insist his actions were necessary to prevent "genocide" — a claim flatly denied by leaders around the globe.

Video feeds of the event cut out a times but showed a loudly cheering crowd that broke into chants of "Russia!"

Putin's appearance marked a change from his relative isolation of recent weeks, when he has been shown meeting with world leaders and his staff either at extraordinarily long tables or via videoconference.

In the wake of the invasion, the Kremlin has clamped down harder on dissent and the flow of information, arresting thousands of antiwar protesters, banning sites such as Facebook and Twitter, and instituting tough prison sentences for what is deemed to be false reporting on the war, which Moscow refers to as a "special military operation."

The rally in Moscow came as Vladimir Medinsky, who led Russian negotiators in several rounds of talks with Ukraine, said that the sides have moved closer to agreement on the issue of Ukraine dropping its bid to join NATO and adopting a neutral status.

Mikhailo Podolyak, an adviser to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, characterized the Russian assessment as intended "to provoke tension in the media." He tweeted: "Our positions are unchanged. Cease-fire, withdrawal of troops & strong security guarantees with concrete formulas."

Earlier Friday, one person was reported killed in the missile attack near Lviv. Satellite photos showed the strike destroyed a repair hangar and appeared to damage two other buildings. Ukraine said it had shot down two of six missiles in the volley, which came from the Black Sea.

Zelenskyy boasted that Ukraine's defenses have proved much stronger than expected, and Russia "didn't know what we had for defense or how we prepared to meet the blow."

But British Chief of Defense Intelligence Lt. Gen. Jim Hockenhull warned that after failing to take major Ukrainian cities, Russian forces are shifting to a "strategy of attrition" that will entail "reckless and indiscriminate use of firepower," resulting in higher civilian casualties and a worsening humanitarian crisis.

In city after city around Ukraine, hospitals, schools and buildings where people sought safety have been attacked. Rescue workers continued to search for survivors in the ruins of a theater that was being used a shelter when it was blasted by a Russian airstrike Wednesday in the besieged southern city of Mariupol.

Ludmyla Denisova, the Ukrainian Parliament's human rights commissioner, said at least 130 people had survived the bombing.

"But according to our data, there are still more than 1,300 people in these basements, in this bomb shelter," Denisova told Ukrainian television. "We pray that they will all be alive, but so far there is no information about them."

Biden gives warning to Xi should China back Russia

President stresses 'implications and consequences'

By Aamer Madhani
Associated Press



President Joe Biden and China's Xi Jinping spoke for nearly two hours in a virtual meeting Friday. Russia's invasion of Ukraine was the main topic between the leaders. **THE WHITE HOUSE**

WASHINGTON — Key figures for a war half a world away, President Joe Biden and China's Xi Jinping spoke for nearly two hours Friday as the White House looked to deter Beijing from providing military or economic assistance for Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

China's Foreign Ministry, in a readout after the video conversation, deplored "conflict and confrontation" as "not in anyone's interest," but assigned no blame to Russia and gave no indication of next steps.

The White House said Biden underscored to Xi the "implications and consequences if China provides material support to Russia as it conducts brutal attacks against Ukrainian cities and civilians."

Ahead of the call, White House press secretary Jen Psaki said Biden would question Xi about Beijing's "rhetorical support" of Putin and an "absence of denunciation" of Russia's invasion.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying called the U.S. administration' "overbearing" for suggesting China risks falling on the wrong side of history.

Planning for the leaders' discussion had been in the works since Biden and Xi held a virtual summit in November, but differences between Washington and Beijing over Russian President Vladimir Putin's prosecution of his war against Ukraine were likely at the center of the conversation.

China on Friday also sought to highlight its calls for negotiations and its donations of humanitarian aid, while accusing the U.S. of provoking Russia and fueling the conflict by shipping arms to Ukraine. Xi also renewed China's criticism of sanctions imposed on Russia over the invasion, according to Chinese State Media. As in the past, Xi did not use the terms war or invasion to describe Russia's actions.

"As leaders of major countries, we need to consider properly resolving global hotspot issues and, more importantly, global stability and the production and life of billions of people," he was quoted as saying.

In an attempt to show international support for China's position, state broadcaster CCTV said Xi also discussed Ukraine in phone calls with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, contending the leaders' views were "extremely close."

The U.S.-China relationship, long fraught, has only become more strained since the start of Biden's presidency. Biden has repeatedly criticized China for military provocations against Taiwan, human rights abuses against ethnic minorities and efforts to squelch pro-democracy advocates in Hong Kong.

In the days after Putin deployed Russian forces in Ukraine, Xi's government tried to distance itself from Russia's offensive but avoided the criticism many other nations have leveled at Moscow. At other moments, Beijing's actions have been provocative including amplifying unverified Russian claims that Ukraine ran chemical and biological weapons labs with U.S. support.

Earlier this week, the U.S. informed Asian and European allies that American intelligence had determined that China had signaled to Russia that it would be willing to provide both military support for the campaign in Ukraine and financial backing to help stave off the impact of severe sanctions imposed by the West.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Thursday reiterated that the Biden administration remains concerned that China is considering providing military equipment. He said Biden would make clear to Xi "that China will bear responsibility for any actions it takes to support Russia's aggression, and we will not hesitate to impose costs."

The White House says China has been sending mixed messages. There were initial signs that Chinese state-owned banks were pulling back from financing Russian activities, according to a senior Biden administration official who insisted on anonymity to discuss internal analyses. But there have also been public comments by Chinese officials who expressed support for Russia being a strategic partner.

White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan and senior Chinese foreign policy adviser Yang Jiechi met in Rome this week for an intense, seven-hour talk about the Russian invasion and other issues.

Ahead of the Rome talks, Sullivan said the U.S. wouldn't abide China or any other country helping Russia work around economy-jarring sanctions inflicted by the U.S. and other allies since the Feb. 24 invasion.

Xi and Putin met in early February with the Russian leader traveling to Beijing for the start of the Winter Olympics. The two leaders issued a 5,000-word statement declaring limitless "friendship."



Oleg Artemyev, left, Sergey Korsakov, and Denis Matveyev are seen on Friday prior to launch. **ROSCOSMOS SPACE AGENCY**

Cosmonauts reach International Space Station

Associated Press

MOSCOW — A trio of Russian cosmonauts arrived at the International Space Station on Friday, the first new faces in space since the start of the Russian war in Ukraine.

Russian space corporation Roscosmos cosmonauts Oleg Artemyev, Denis Matveyev and Sergey Korsakov blasted off successfully from the Russia-leased Baikonur launch facility in Kazakhstan in their Soyuz MS-21 spacecraft. They smoothly docked at the station just over three hours later, joining two Russians, four Americans and a German on the orbiting outpost.

The blastoff marked the first space crew launch since Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24.

The war has resulted in canceled spacecraft launches and broken contracts. Roscosmos chief Dmitry Rogozin has warned that the U.S. would have to use "broomsticks" to fly into space after Russia said it would stop supplying rocket engines to U.S. companies. Many worry, however, that Rogozin is putting decades of a peaceful off-planet partnership at risk.

NASA Administrator Bill Nelson downplayed Rogozin's comments: "He spouts off every now and then. But at the end of the day, he's worked with us."

"The other people that work in the Russian civilian space program, they're professional," Nelson added. "They don't miss a beat with us, American astronauts and American mission control. Despite all of that, up in space, we can have a cooperation with our Russian friends, our colleagues."

NASA astronaut Mark Vande Hei — who on Tuesday broke the U.S. single spaceflight record of 340 days — is due to leave the space station with two Russians aboard a Soyuz capsule for a touchdown in Kazakhstan on March 30.

WORLD & NATION

NEWS BRIEFING

Ex-deputy in Arkansas gets 1 year for shooting unarmed teen to death

From news services

CABOT, Ark. — A former Arkansas deputy was convicted Friday of negligent homicide and sentenced to a year in jail for fatally shooting an unarmed white teenager whose death last year drew the attention of national civil rights leaders.

Jurors acquitted Michael Davis of the more serious offense of manslaughter while finding him guilty of the misdemeanor charge in the death of 17-year-old Hunter Brittain during a June 23 traffic stop outside Cabot, a city of about 26,000 people roughly 30 miles northeast of Little Rock.

The maximum jail term that Davis, a former sergeant with the Lonoke County sheriff's office, faced was one year. Manslaughter is a felony for which he would have faced between three and 10 years in prison.

The Arkansas Democrat-Gazette reported that Davis also was sentenced to a $1,000 fine.

Davis, who is white, told investigators he shot Brittain once in the neck during the stop outside an auto repair shop after the teen exited his truck and reached into the bed of the pickup while failing to comply with Davis' commands to show his hands, according to the arrest affidavit.

A passenger and another witness testified they never heard Davis tell the teen to show his hands.

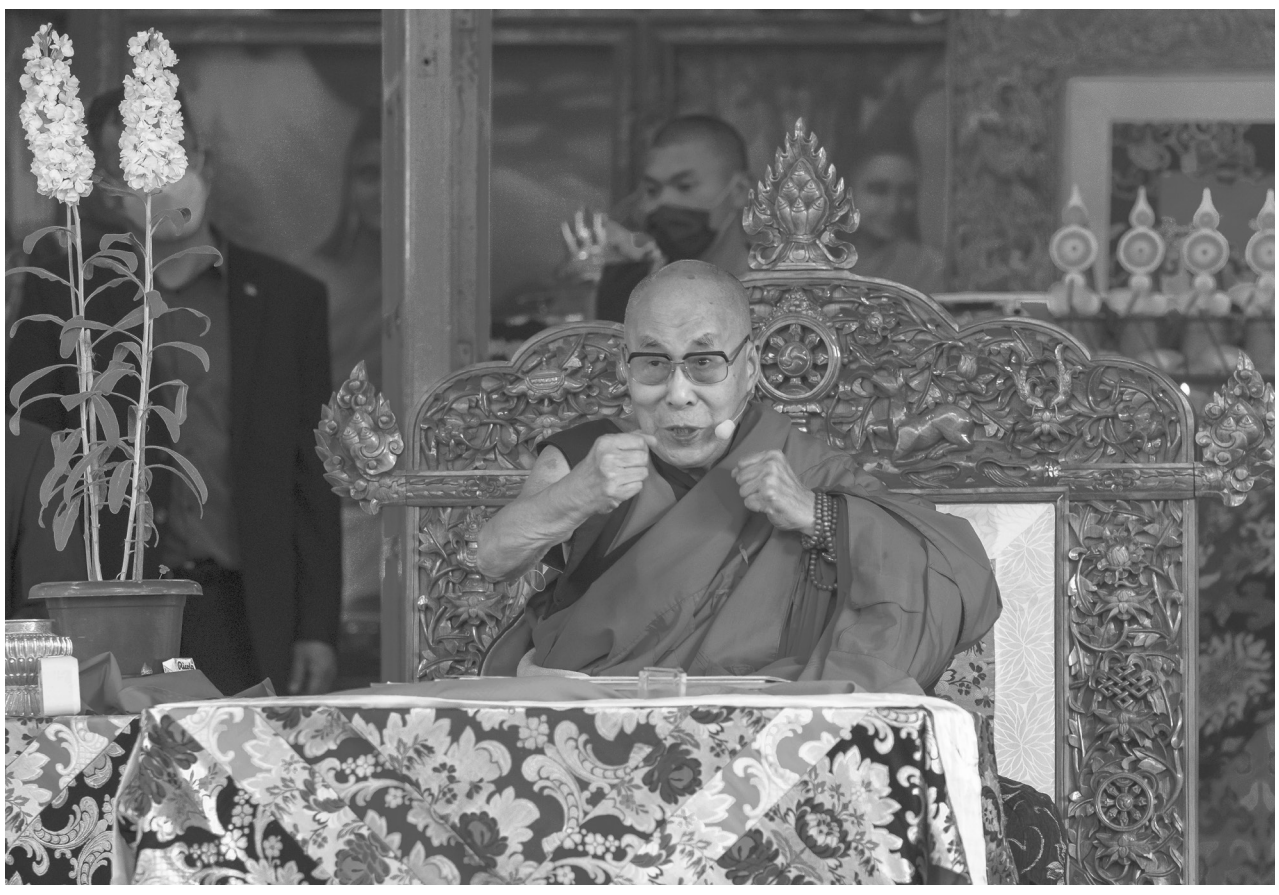
The jury's deliberations, which began Thursday afternoon and resumed Friday morning, lasted less than three hours total.

After the verdict was announced, Brittain's family and friends chanted "justice for Hunter" outside the Army National Guard facility that was used for the trial, which began Tuesday.

Davis was fired by the Lonoke County sheriff for not turning on his body camera until after shooting Brittain. The footage, presented at the trial, shows only the moments after it happened.

The passenger in Brittain's truck said he and the teen had been working on the pickup's transmission. Brittain's family members have said he was grabbing a container that held antifreeze to place behind the truck's wheel to stop it from rolling backward. Investigators found no evidence of firearms in or near the truck.

Brittain was eulogized last year by the Rev. Al Sharpton and two attorneys who represented George Floyd's family.



The Dalai Lama holds up his fists to mimic a boxer while indicating that he is in good health during a religious gathering on Friday at the Tsuglakhang Temple in Dharmsala, India. It was the first public appearance by the Tibetan spiritual leader in about two years, a time span that coincides with the COVID-19 pandemic. He will turn 87 on July 6. **ASHWINI BHATIA/AP**

Iranian uranium: Iran has converted a fraction of its stockpile of highly enriched uranium into material crucial for detecting cancers and other diseases, the U.N. nuclear watchdog and an Iranian media report said Friday.

Iran's decision to convert the uranium takes it out of a form that can potentially be further refined into weapons-grade levels. The development comes as talks in Vienna over restoring Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers hang in the balance.

In a statement Friday, the International Atomic Energy Agency said Iran had used 4.6 pounds of its 60% enriched uranium to produce so-called highly enriched uranium targets. Those targets will be irradiated and later used to produce molybdenum-99, the IAEA said.

Molybdenum-99 decays within days into a form of an isotope called technetium-99m, which is used in scans that can detect cancer and assess blood supply to the heart. In the U.S., technetium-99m is used in over 40,000 medical procedures a day, according to the Energy Department.

Journalists released: The Taliban have released three employees of Afghanistan's largest television station who were detained over a report that the country's new rulers had banned all broadcasts of foreign drama series, a channel executive said Friday.

Three staffers from TOLO TV were taken from the station Thursday evening, according to Khpalwak Sapai, head of TOLONews department and one of the arrested.

Sapai later said that he and Nafay Khaleeq, the station's legal adviser, were released within hours later Thursday. Bahram Aman, a news presenter, was kept in custody overnight and released on Friday evening, the station said.

The Taliban gave no explanation for the ban.

Hair bias bill: Black people who wear hairstyles like Afros, cornrows or tightly coiled twists should not face bias in society, school and the workplace, the U.S. House said Friday in voting to make it explicit that such discrimination is a violation of federal civil rights law.

The House voted 235-189 to prohibit discrimination on the basis of hair texture and hairstyles. The bill now goes to the Senate, where its fate is uncertain.

President Joe Biden has already said he would sign the bill, known as the Crown Act, into law.

All but 14 Republicans voted against the measure, calling it unnecessary and a distraction. They said protections against hair discrimination already exist in several federal laws.

But House Democrats noted that, in several instances, judges have dismissed civil rights cases on the basis that the law does not directly cover discrimination on the basis of hair. The House bill makes clear that hair is included.

Truckers strike: High energy costs are stoking unrest in parts of Europe, with Spain deploying more than 23,000 police officers amid a truckers' strike Friday.

Russia's war in Ukraine has further pushed up costs for oil and natural gas in Europe, driving record inflation and making it ever more expensive for farmers and truckers to fuel their equipment and vehicles, afford fertilizer or keep up with other costs.

A group of mostly self-employed Spanish truckers walked off the job days ago over high fuel prices and other grievances.

Picketers threw burning tires onto a highway overnight in northwestern Spain, national media reported. Police arrested six people and placed 34 others under investigation, the Interior Ministry said.

Striking truckers also have been accused of throwing rocks at trucks that are still working this week, tearing cargo tarps, puncturing truck tires and threatening working drivers with violence.

Bridge inaugurated: The president of Turkey, South Korea's prime minister and other officials inaugurated a massive suspension bridge Friday over the Dardanelles Strait that connects the European and Asian shores of the key waterway.

With a 6,637-foot span between its towers, the 1915 Canakkale Bridge becomes the world's longest suspension bridge, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said.

It connects the town of Gelibolu, located in the European side of Turkey's northwestern Canakkale province, with the town of Lapseki on the Asian side.

Travelers can cross the Dardanelles in just 6 minutes by bridge compared with 90 minutes by ferry, the president said.



Supreme Court nominee Ketanji Brown Jackson arrives for a March 3 meeting with Sen. Ben Sasse, R-Neb., a member of the Judiciary Committee, at the Capitol. **J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP**

Supreme Court nominee? Smile a lot but speak little

By Darlene Superville
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Keep a smile on your face. Don't talk too much. Avoid the news media.

It's advice Supreme Court nominees have heard for decades from the guides that presidents select to help steer candidates through the Senate confirmation process.

Federal judge Ketanji Brown Jackson, President Joe Biden's pick for the court, likely has been getting similar guidance from her helper, former Alabama Sen. Doug Jones, for the one-on-one meetings she's been having with senators and for her confirmation hearing that opens Monday.

"Stay out of the way, be on time and keep your mouth shut," is what Republican Tom Korologos says he has told the hundreds of nominees for executive branch and judicial positions, including the Supreme Court, that he has shepherded along during decades in and out of the federal government.

Because of the high stakes involved — a lifetime appointment to the nation's highest court, sometimes with the chance to shape its ideological direction — modern presidents have put together teams of advisers to help smooth a nominee's path through a grueling, time-consuming process that also has become increasingly contentious.

The job of a guide often goes to an experienced Washington hand and combines many roles into one: coach, confidant, liaison to Capitol Hill and to the administration, traffic cop and strategist with the singular goal of helping the nominee win confirmation. But that isn't always a given, as history has shown.

Korologos shepherded the late Supreme Court Justices William Rehnquist and Antonin Scalia to confirmation. But he suffered defeat with the late federal judge Robert Bork, whom the Senate rejected in 1987 for the high court.

In the case of Jackson, Biden called on Jones to help guide the 51-year-old federal appeals court judge through the process.

White House counsel Dana Remus said Jones, a lawyer, was the "perfect choice" because of the relationships he developed in both parties in a short Senate stint that ended in 2021 after he lost a bid to be elected to a full Senate term.

"He is much beloved by R's and D's, with good reason," Remus said.

Jones travels from Senate office to Senate office with Jackson and a White House entourage, filling her in on what to expect from each senator and often joining the small talk before and after meetings. She has met with 44 senators of both parties, including all 22 Senate Judiciary Committee members, in the three weeks since Biden announced her as his pick.

Korologos said he encouraged nominees to be deferential to senators and to follow one of his most important pieces of advice, something he calls the "80-20 rule."

In Korologos' view, a nominee is "winning" if senators on the committee are doing 80% of the talking. A 60-40 ratio means the nominee is "arguing" and is "in trouble."

At 50-50, it's over. They've "blown it," Korologos said.

Sources: Hunter Biden probe continuing after tax bill paid

By Katie Benner, Kenneth P. Vogel and Michael S. Schmidt
The New York Times



The Justice Department's inquiry into the business dealings of Hunter Biden is still active after a significant tax liability was paid off. **CALLA KESSLER/THE NEW YORK TIMES 2021**

WASHINGTON — In the year after he disclosed a federal investigation into his "tax affairs" in late 2020, President Joe Biden's son, Hunter Biden, paid off a significant tax liability, even as a grand jury continued to gather evidence in a wide-ranging look at his international business dealings, according to people familiar with the case.

Biden's failure to pay all his taxes has been a focus of the ongoing Justice Department investigation. While wiping out his liability does not preclude criminal charges against him, the payment could make it harder for prosecutors to win a conviction or a long sentence for tax-related offenses, according to tax law experts, since juries and judges tend to be more sympathetic to defendants who have paid their bills.

But Biden's taxes are one element of the broader investigation stemming from work he did around the world. Hunter Biden is a lawyer; his professional life has intersected with his father's public service, including working as a registered lobbyist for domestic interests and, while his father was vice president, pursuing deals and clients in Asia and Europe.

As recently as last month, the federal grand jury heard testimony in Wilmington, Delaware, from two witnesses, one of whom was a former employee of Hunter Biden whose lawyer was later subpoenaed for financial records that reflected money Biden received from a Ukrainian energy company.

The investigation, which began as a tax inquiry under the Obama administration, widened in 2018 to include possible criminal violations of tax laws, as well as foreign lobbying and money laundering rules, according to the people familiar with the inquiry.

But prosecutors face a number of hurdles to bringing criminal charges, the people familiar with the investigation said, including proving that Biden intentionally violated the Foreign Agents Registration Act, or FARA, which requires disclosure to the Justice Department of lobbying or public relations assistance on behalf of foreign clients.

The Justice Department has given no indication that it has made decisions about any element of the case, and Biden has not been charged with any crime.

When he disclosed the investigation after the 2020 election, Hunter Biden said that "a professional and objective review of these matters will demonstrate that I handled my affairs legally and appropriately."

Biden's lawyer, the Justice Department and the U.S. attorney's office in Delaware, which is overseeing the investigation, all declined to comment.

It is not clear whether the criminal probe is focused solely on Hunter Biden, or if he is among a group of individuals and companies being scrutinized. Prosecutors have also asked about potential FARA violations by a Washington consulting firm, Blue Star Strategies, that worked for the Ukrainian energy company in an arrangement that Biden helped broker, according to documents and the people familiar with the investigation.

For Joe Biden, the long-running case is both politically and personally fraught. Hunter Biden's work for Burisma Holdings, the Ukrainian energy company, became a flashpoint in his father's race in 2020 against President Donald Trump and helped set off the events that led to Trump's first impeachment.

The elder Biden now oversees the DOJ.

Hunter Biden told associates in recent months that he paid the federal taxes that had been the subject of Justice Department scrutiny. He told one associate that the tax liability was more than $1 million, and that he had to take out a loan to pay it off.

Federal tax prosecutors generally fight to keep jurors from knowing whether defendants have paid their back tax bills, arguing that the crime happens when the return is falsely filed or not filed at all, said Jeffrey Neiman, a former Justice Department tax prosecutor.

BUSINESS

VW recalls over 246,000 SUVs over braking issue

NHTSA documents: Faulty wiring harnesses can lead to other electrical problems

By Tom Krisher
Associated Press

DETROIT — Volkswagen is recalling more than 246,000 SUVs in the U.S. and Canada because faulty wiring harnesses can make them brake unexpectedly, sometimes while in traffic.

The recall comes three days after The Associated Press reported that 47 people had complained to U.S. safety regulators about the problem, some reporting nearly being rear-ended by other vehicles. Many reported that warning lights and alarms would go off, the driver's side windows would roll down and the SUVs would suddenly brake while in traffic.

Volkswagen says in documents posted Friday by The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that the recall covers certain Atlas SUVs from the 2019 through 2023 model years, as well as the 2020 through 2023 Atlas Cross Sport.

The documents say the electrical contacts on a wiring harness in either of the front doors can corrode, interrupting electrical connections. The problem can cause the side air bags to deploy late in a crash, and the parking brake can come on unexpectedly. Volkswagen says in documents that the SUVs can brake at speeds below 1.8 mph.

But many of those who complained to NHTSA said the unwanted braking happened while they were driving on city streets, putting them in danger. A driver from Mansfield, Ohio, wrote in a complaint that the braking happened multiple times at speeds of 25 to 70 mph.

Kendall Heiman, a Lawrence, Kansas, clinical social worker, said her 2021 Atlas Cross Sport tried to stop multiple times while she was driving, often while it was decelerating. Heiman said she was nearly rear-ended by another SUV while heading into a roundabout. It also braked while she was exiting a highway, she said.

She and others complained that VW had no parts available to fix their vehicles, which sat at dealerships for more than two months. Heiman was given loaner cars, but some of those who complained to NHTSA said they were told by dealers that VW would not provide loaners.

Documents filed with the government by VW show the company started getting complaints in 2020. An analysis was started, but VW initially handled the problem as a regular quality issue. In 2021 the company began analyzing parts taken from vehicles, and it found the corrosion problem in a lab.

In February, NHTSA asked for a meeting after seeing consumer complaints, and a meeting was scheduled for March 10. VW decided to do a recall March 4, "out of an abundance of caution," the documents said.

The documents say a repair is being developed. Owners will get letters telling them of the safety risk starting May 10, and a second one will be sent when the remedy is available.

Many owners, including Heiman, said alarms would beep, dashboard warning lights would come on, the driver's side windows would roll down and the mystery braking would happen.

A review of the complaints found no reports of crashes.



An autonomous tractor, which is equipped with six pairs of cameras, plows a field in Blue Earth, Minn. **BILL KRZYZANOWSKI/JOHN DEERE 2021**

Age of autonomous farming

Driverless vehicles? Look to the heartland rather than city streets for emerging tech

By Scott McFetridge
Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — For years Americans have been told autonomous technology was improving and that driverless vehicles were just around the corner.

Finally they're here, but to catch a glimpse of them, you'll need to go to a farm rather than look along city streets.

Beginning this fall, green 14-ton tractors that can plow day or night with no one sitting in the cab, or even watching nearby, will come off the John Deere factory assembly line in Waterloo, Iowa, harkening the age of autonomous farming.

The development follows more than a decadelong effort by the world's largest farm equipment manufacturer, and marks a milestone for automation advocates, who for years have been explaining why driverless cars aren't quite ready for prime time.

"I'm glad to see they're coming out and will stimulate the other technologies," said Raj Rajkumar, a professor at Carnegie Mellon University and an expert in autonomous cars.

Deere isn't saying yet how much the autonomous tractors will cost, but the new technology will be added onto tractors that sell for about $500,000, said Ben Haber, a company spokesman.

The company plans to operate the autonomous tractors on 10 to 50 farms by this fall before significantly increasing the number in following years.

For the past decade, the supposedly imminent debut of autonomous vehicles on city streets and freeways has been repeatedly pushed off as companies struggled to guarantee their safety.

But, Rajkumar notes, tractors have it easier because they don't need to contend with other vehicles, pedestrians or the complexities of an urban scene.

Tractors can make use of consistent GPS data, unlike cars that can lose contact traveling through tunnels or amid tall buildings.

Modern tractors already have GPS guides that handle steering and turning to ensure optimum plowing, seeding and harvesting. They also use real-time streams of data to make changes if needed because of soil conditions, the amount of fertilizer applied or other factors.

The autonomous tractor will now let farmers hook up a plow behind a tractor, start the machine with a swipe of a smart phone and then leave it to rumble up and down a field on its own.

The driverless tractors are equipped with six pairs of cameras that work like human eyes and can provide a 360-degree image.

When filtered through computer algorithms, the tractor is able to determine where it is in the field and will abruptly stop if there is anything unfamiliar in its path.

Farmers often grow crops on different parcels of land that are miles apart, so while the tractor plows in one field a farmer can work at another, drive into town for supplies or spend time with their families at home.

Given that less than 2% of Americans work on farms and rural populations have dwindled for decades, the autonomous tractors also are expected to help with chronic labor shortages.

The shift to ever-more sophisticated tractors is part of a movement that emphasizes planting, fertilizing and harvesting during narrow windows of time when conditions are perfect.

If new technology can help farmers complete a job when soil and air temperatures are just right ahead of approaching wet weather, for example, it can mean more plentiful crops months later.

Ferry operator fires 800 UK crew members

By Jill Lawless and Danica Kirka
Associated Press

LONDON — Unions were protesting at British ports Friday and demanding the government take action after major ferry operator P&O Ferries fired 800 U.K. crew members to replace them with cheaper contract staff.

Ferry crossings have been canceled, threatening to disrupt the movement of travelers and goods in key routes through the English Channel for days. The British government expressed outrage at the mass firings — done over Zoom message — but suggested it could do little to reverse them. It provided the company with millions in aid during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Government minister James Heappey said "P&O has behaved appallingly," but he did not believe the company's actions were illegal.

"Ultimately, it is not something the government can stop P&O from doing," he told the BBC. "Now, the focus will be on supporting those who have lost their jobs."

Prime Minister Boris Johnson's spokesman, Max Blain, said it was "too early to be definitive" about whether P&O had breached labor laws.

P&O said it had no choice but to cut costs after the pandemic hammered its finances, leading it to post a $132 million loss last year. The ferry operator, a unit of Dubai-government owned logistics giant DP World, said its survival was "dependent on making swift and significant changes now."

CEO Peter Hebblethwaite said replacing unionized U.K. seafarers with cheaper employees hired through the company International Ferry Management would cut P&O's labor costs in half, according to a letter obtained by news site Mirror Online.

The company canceled ferry crossings on routes linking England to Ireland, Northern Ireland the Netherlands and France, including the Dover-Calais route that carries a large chunk of U.K.-Europe passengers and freight.

The opposition Labour Party demanded Britain's Conservative government suspend DP World's contracts and licenses and claw back the $5.6 million it gave the company in emergency funding during the pandemic.

Russian oil sale to India seen as blow to US efforts

By Chris Megerian and Ashok Sharma
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden's campaign to unite the globe against the Russian invasion of Ukraine is being challenged not only by adversaries such as China but also by the world's most populous democracy, India.

An Indian government official said Friday that the country will increase its imports of Russian oil, allowing it to boost energy supplies at a discount as its economy struggles to recover from the coronavirus pandemic. The official, who was not authorized to talk to reporters and spoke on the condition of anonymity, said the latest purchase was 3 million barrels.

Although India isn't alone in buying Russian energy — several European allies such as Germany have continued to do so — the decision conflicts with Biden's efforts to isolate Russia's economy with sanctions.

The increased flow of oil could further strain the relationship between Washington and New Delhi, which has already been tested by India's recent procurement of advanced Russian air defense systems.

The White House is still considering whether to enact sanctions on India for that purchase. The issue is being looked at with a "different spin" following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, according to a U.S. official familiar with the Biden administration's deliberations. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal decision-making.

Imports make up 85% of India's oil needs, and its overall demand is projected to jump 8.2% to 5.15 million barrels per day this year.

Indian media reports said that Russia was offering a 20% discount on oil purchases below global benchmark prices.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Agency pushing to cut oil demand

BERLIN — The International Energy Agency says the world could quickly reduce global oil demand by 2.7 million barrels a day by cutting down on car and plane travel, helping easing the supply crunch caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The Paris-based agency said in a report released Friday that "practical actions by governments and citizens" could make fuel cheaper for consumers, shrink Russia's hydrocarbon revenue and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The IEA said its 10-point plan could, if fully implemented in advanced economies, cut oil demand by the same amount as all the cars in China within four months. It urged adoption of the measures in time for the peak demand season of July and August.

US home sales drop in February

Sales of previously occupied U.S. homes fell in February as competition for a near-record low number of properties on the market drove prices higher and rising mortgage rates kept would-be buyers on the sidelines.

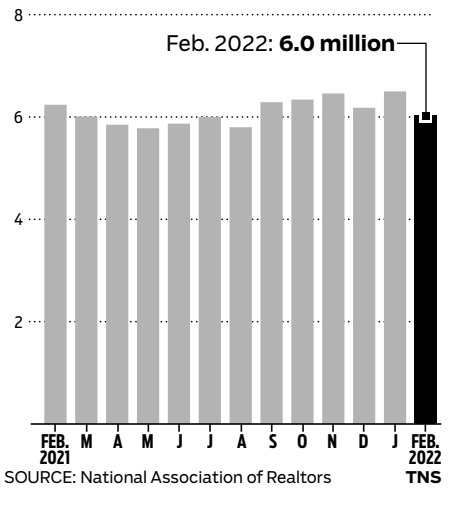
Existing home sales fell 7.2% last month from January to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 6.02 million, the National Association of Realtors said Friday. That's less than the roughly 6.1 million sales that economists had been expecting, according to FactSet.

Sales declined 2.4% from February 2021 as the median home price jumped 15% from last year at this time to $357,300.

The number of homes for sale at the end of February totaled just 870,000. That's just 2.4% above the record low set in January on data going back to 1999.

Existing home sales

Scale in millions



SOURCE: National Association of Realtors TNS

BUSINESS



The Pixar film "Luca" was the most watched movie in 2021 with 10.5 billion minutes streamed, according to Nielsen. Above, an image showing characters Alberto, left, and Luca. **DISNEY**

Report: Digital entertainment revenue saw big surge in 2021

By Jake Coyle
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Before the pandemic, the theatrical and digital markets for entertainment were roughly similar in size. Last year, however, digital revenue was more than three times that of global box office, according to a new report by the Motion Picture Association.

The MPA's annual study of theatrical and home entertainment, published this week, crystallized just how much streaming has come to dominate the media landscape. In 2021, the digital market accounted for 72% of the combined theatrical and home market. In 2019, digital accounted for $45.5 billion worldwide; last year it ballooned to $71.9 billion.

Streaming services have led the boom.

In 2021, streaming subscriptions rose to 1.3 billion globally, a 14% increase from the year before.

In the United States, subscriptions grew at a similar pace to 353.2 million. According to Nielsen, the Pixar film "Luca" on Disney+ was the most watched movie of 2021, with more than 10.5 billion minutes streamed.

The digital surge came at the same time the pandemic battered the theatrical business.

While worldwide box office last year nearly doubled that of 2020, the first year of the pandemic, the $21.3 billion theatrical market, amid sporadic theater closures and widespread delays, was roughly half of what it had been before the arrival of COVID-19.

In 2019, box office accounted for $42.3 billion in sales. With steady business returning to movie theaters in much of the world this year, analysts forecast that the theatrical recovery could reach around 80% of what it typically has. Meanwhile, physical sales (most notably DVDs and Blu-rays) have been gradually declining for years. Last year, physical media fell to $6.5 billion, or about half what it was in 2018 and a fraction of their record highs.

But however the media pie is divided, the combined entertainment market in 2021 was practically the same as it was before the pandemic, totaling $99.7 billion and higher than the $98.1 billion in 2019. Consumer spending — $328.2 billion last year, including cable subscriptions — also matched 2019's numbers.

Still, the MPA data captured many of the shifts accelerated by the pandemic. In both 2020 and 2021, 179 original films were exclusive to streaming services compared with 113 in 2019. Viewing movies online grew in 2021 by 15% versus a year earlier.

Other facets of movie-making stayed stubbornly the same, according to USC Annenberg's Inclusion Initiative. In a report released Monday, researchers found that in the 100 highest-grossing films of 2021, 41% featured female leads or co-leads (compared with 51% of the U.S. population) and 32% of leads were from a historically excluded race or ethnicity) compared with 40% of the U.S. population).

While those rates are substantially higher than when USC researchers began tracking in 2007, they suggested the industry's belated and gradual shift to more diverse representation on screen is still falling short of reflecting American audiences.

US looking for world's help in stopping shipments to Russia

By Ana Swanson
The New York Times



The U.S. Commerce Department, led by Secretary Gina Raimondo, is overseeing export restrictions on Russia following its invasion of Ukraine. **CHARLES KRUPA/AP**

WASHINGTON — The United States, in partnership with its allies, has hit Russia with some of the most sweeping export restrictions ever imposed, barring companies across the world from sending advanced technology in order to penalize President Vladimir Putin for his invasion of Ukraine.

The restrictions are aimed at cutting off the flow of semiconductors, aircraft components and other technologies that are crucial to Russia's defense, maritime and aerospace industries, in a bid to cripple Putin's ability to wage war.

But the extent to which the measures actually hinder Russia's capabilities will depend on whether companies around the globe follow the rules.

Enforcing the new restrictions poses a significant challenge as governments try to police thousands of companies around the world. But the task could be made easier because the U.S. is acting in concert with so many other countries.

The European Union, Australia, Britain, Canada, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea have joined the U.S. in imposing their own restrictions. And governments, including Singapore and Taiwan, a major global producer of semiconductors, have indicated they will support the rules.

"Because we have the full cooperation and alignment with so many countries, it makes enforcement a lot easier," said Gina Raimondo, the U.S. secretary of commerce. "Every country is going to be doing enforcement.

"That's part of the power, if you will, of having so much collaboration," she added.

Officials from the Commerce Department, which is in charge of enforcing the U.S. rules, have already begun digging through shipping containers and detaining electronics, aircraft parts and other goods that are destined for Russia.

On March 2, federal agents detained two speedboats at the Port of Charleston in South Carolina valued at $150,000 that were being exported to Russia, according to senior U.S. officials.

To look for any potential violators, federal agents will be combing through tips from industry sources and working with Customs and Border Protection to find anomalies in export data that might point to shipments to Russia. They are also reaching out to known exporters to Russia to get them on board with the new restrictions, speaking to about 20 or 30 companies a day, U.S. officials said.

Their efforts extend beyond U.S. borders.

On March 3, Commerce Department officials spoke to a gathering of 300 businesspeople in Beijing about how to comply with the new restrictions.

U.S. officials have also been coordinating with other governments to ensure that they are taking a tough stance on enforcement, senior U.S. officials said.

Emily Kilcrease, director of the energy, economics and security program at the Center for a New American Security, said that the level of allied cooperation in forging the export controls had been "completely unprecedented" and that international coordination would have an important upside.

"The allied countries will be active partners in enforcement efforts, rather than the United States attempting to enforce its own unilateral rules extraterritorially," she said.

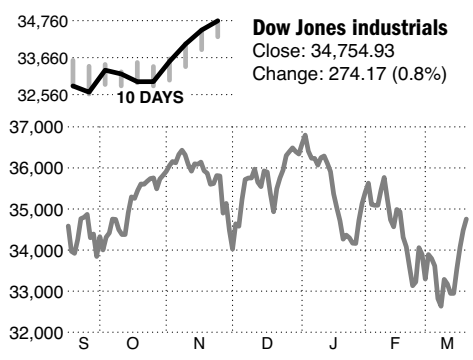
Biden entered office pledging to mend ties with Europe and other allies that had been alienated by former President Donald Trump's "America first" approach. A key part of the argument was that the U.S. could exert more pressure on countries like China when it was not acting alone.

That approach has been particularly important for export controls, which experts argue can do more harm than good when they are imposed by only one country — a criticism that was sometimes leveled at the export controls the Trump administration issued on China.

MARKET RUNDOWN

Saturday, March 19, 2022

DOW 34,754.93 +274.17 ▲
10-YR T-BOND 2.14% -.05 ▼
GOLD $1,928.20 -13.90 ▼



Domestic Indexes

	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD
DOW Indus.	34,754.93	+274.17	-4.36%
DOW Trans.	16,497.72	-85.72	+.12%
DOW Util.	983.04	-7.79	+.23%
NYSE Comp.	16,612.64	+129.06	-3.21%
Nasdaq Comp.	13,893.84	+279.06	-11.19%
S&P 500	4,463.12	+51.45	-6.36%
S&P 400	2,705.81	+21.51	-4.79%
Wilshire 5000	45,009.61	+582.20	-7.12%
Russell 2000	2,086.14	+21.12	-7.09%

Commodities

FUELS	CLOSE	PREV.	YTD
Crude Oil (bbl)	104.70	102.98	+39.21%
Natural Gas (mm btu)	4.86	4.99	+30.38%
Unleaded Gas (gal)	3.24	3.22	+45.35%
METALS	**CLOSE**	**PREV.**	**YTD**
Gold (oz)	1,928.20	1,942.10	+5.51%
Silver (oz)	25.06	25.58	+7.40%

(Previous and change figures reflect current contract.)

Foreign Exchange

	ForEx in U.S. $	U.S. $ in ForEx
Britain	1.3186	.7584
Canada	.7936	1.2602
China	.1572	6.3612
Euro	1.1047	.9052
Japan	.008394	119.13
Mexico	.049086	20.3724

Money Rates

	CLOSE	PREV. WK.
Prime rate	3.50	3.25
3-mo. T-Bill	0.42	0.40
6-mo. T-Bill	0.81	0.76
5-yr T-Note	2.14	2.01
10-yr T-Note	2.14	2.00
30-yr T-Bond	2.42	2.36

Global Markets

	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG.	%YTD
Frankfurt	14,413.09	+25.03	+.17%	-9.27%
London	7,404.73	+19.39	+.26%	+.27%
Hong Kong	21,412.40	-88.83	-.41%	-8.48%
Nikkei	26,827.43	+174.54	+.65%	-6.82%

Stocks of Local Interest

STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD %CHG
AT&T Inc (T)	23.22	+.03	-5.6
Adv Micro Dev (AMD)	113.46	+1.77	-21.2
American Airlines Gp (AAL)	16.75	+.20	-6.7
Amphenol Corp (APH)	76.74	+.82	-12.3
Apple Inc (AAPL)	163.98	+3.36	-7.7
Avangrid Inc (AGR)	44.66	-.32	-10.5
Bank of America (BAC)	42.90	-.13	-3.6
Barnes Group (B)	41.65	-.20	-10.6
Booking Holdings (BKNG)	2186.31	+25.17	-8.9
Brist Myr Sqb (BMY)	71.02	+.50	+13.9
CVS Health Corp (CVS)	107.30	-1.26	+4.0
Carrier Global Corp (CARR)	47.78	+.66	-11.9
Charter Communic (CHTR)	577.32	-.33	-11.4
Cigna Corp (CI)	241.16	-1.23	+5.0
Cisco Syst (CSCO)	55.97	-.20	-11.7
Comcast Corp A (CMCSA)	46.91	+.43	-6.8
CooTek Cayman Inc (CTK)	.29	+.05	-52.8
DiDi Global Inc (DIDI)	4.09	+1.53	-17.9
Disney (DIS)	140.30	+.83	-9.4
EMCOR Group Inc (EME)	119.62	+1.92	-6.1
Ethan Allen (ETD)	26.75	-.39	+1.7
Eversource Energy (ES)	83.43	-.83	-8.3
Exela Technologies (XELA)	.50	+.00	-42.6
Exxon Mobil Corp (XOM)	78.67	-.31	+28.6
Ford Motor (F)	16.86	+.28	-18.8
FuelCell Energy (FCEL)	6.71	+.31	+29.0
Full Truck Alliance (YMM)	6.97	+1.14	-16.7
Gen Dynamics (GD)	230.23	-.28	+10.4
Gen Electric (GE)	95.59	+.06	+1.2
HP Inc (HPQ)	37.09	+2.60	-1.5
Hartford Fn Sv (HIG)	70.85	+.51	+2.6
Honeywell Intl (HON)	194.72	+2.79	-6.6
Horizon Tech Fin (HRZN)	13.82	+.06	-13.2
Hycroft Mining Holdg (HYMC)	1.35	-.03	+119.9
IQIYI Inc (IQ)	3.48	+.57	-23.7
Imperial Petroleum (IMPP)	2.37	+.05	+10.7
Independence Rlty Tr (IRT)	25.37	-.29	-1.8
Infosys Ltd (INFY)	25.04	+.55	-1.1
Intel Corp (INTC)	47.45	+.31	-7.9
Kaman (KAMN)	43.68	+1.54	+1.2
Keycorp (KEY)	23.93	-.20	+3.5
Kidpik Corp (PIK)	5.75	+1.00	-8.3
Kingsoft Cloud Hld (KC)	6.34	+1.09	-59.7
Lincoln Natl Corp (LNC)	66.05	+.25	-3.2
MGM Resorts Intl (MGM)	42.17	+.23	-6.0

STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD %CHG
Meta Platforms Inc (FB)	216.49	+8.65	-35.6
MetLife Inc (MET)	68.45	+.28	+9.5
Microsoft Corp (MSFT)	300.43	+5.21	-10.7
Mullen Automotive (MULN)	2.90	+.46	-44.6
Novartis AG (NVS)	86.79	+.35	-.8
Nvidia Corporation (NVDA)	264.53	+16.87	-10.1
Occid Petl (OXY)	56.24	-1.77	+94.0
Ocugen Inc (OCGN)	3.72	+.43	-18.2
Otis Worldwide Corp (OTIS)	77.98	+1.59	-10.4
PG&E Corp (PCG)	11.58	-.18	-4.6
Palantir Technol (PLTR)	12.82	+.50	-29.6
Peoples Utd Fncl (PBCT)	21.08	-.01	+18.3
Pfizer Inc (PFE)	54.51	+.27	-7.7
Pinduoduo Inc ADS (PDD)	42.60	+3.23	-26.9
Pitney Bowes (PBI)	5.35	+.16	-19.3
Prudential Fncl (PRU)	115.23	-.17	+6.5
Pub Svc Ent Gp (PEG)	66.80	-.95	+.1
Raytheon Technolog (RTX)	97.52	-.23	+13.3
Rogers Corp (ROG)	273.23	+.78	+.1
SS&C Technlogies (SSNC)	78.91	+.47	-3.7
SoFi Technologies (SOFI)	9.87	+.96	-37.6
Sorrento Therapeut (SRNE)	2.62	+.03	-43.7
Sthwstn Energy (SWN)	5.35	-.05	+14.8
Square Inc (SQ)	140.64	+12.68	-12.9
Stanley Black & Deck (SWK)	151.20	+.91	-19.8
Starwood Prop Trust (STWD)	23.89	+.17	-1.7
StoneCo Ltd (STNE)	13.65	+4.04	-19.0
Sundial Growers Inc (SNDL)	.52	+.02	-9.7
Terex Corp (TEX)	39.35	-.49	-10.5
Tonix Pharma (TNXP)	.24	-.01	-33.0
Travelers Cos (TRV)	180.31	-.72	+15.3
United Rentals (URI)	346.24	-.53	+4.2
UnitedHealth Group (UNH)	506.12	-.90	+.8
Verizon Comm (VZ)	50.80	-1.56	-2.2
Virtus Invest (VRTS)	238.51	+1.75	-19.7
Voya Financial (VOYA)	66.55	+1.38	+.4
Webster Financial (WBS)	57.72	+.04	+3.4
Wells Fargo & Co (WFC)	51.42	-.06	+7.2
White Mtns Insur (WTM)	1046.29	-19.28	+3.2
World Wrestling Ent (WWE)	59.75	+.91	+21.1
XPO Logistics Inc (XPO)	76.74	-.07	-.9
Xerox Holdings Corp (XRX)	20.11	+.52	-11.2



Helen Bennett
Executive Editor
hbennett@courant.com

OPINION

OP-ED

A chilling impact on state's EV adoption

By Amy McLean



A Chevrolet Volt hybrid car charging at a ChargePoint charging station at a parking garage in Los Angeles. **RICHARD VOGEL/AP 2018**

Connecticut is among the most environmentally conscious states in the country and has taken a leading role in advancing clean energy and climate goals, targeting an 80% reduction in climate-warming emissions by 2050.

The vast majority of transportation pollution comes from vehicle tailpipes, with cars, trucks and buses accounting for 82% of the transportation sector's CO2 emissions. In order to meaningfully and urgently address the transportation sector's contributions to climate change and poor air quality, a rapid transition from polluting vehicles to non-emitting electric vehicles (EVs) is necessary. Vehicles powered by electricity produce far less pollution than those running on gasoline or diesel, and as the electric grid gets cleaner, the benefits of electrification will grow. Acadia Center is working across a variety of forums to advance transportation electrification policies that are ambitious, equitable and good for consumers.

Transportation is the largest source of climate-warming emissions in Connecticut, and we have implemented public policies to deploy electric vehicles (EVs) in the state. Gov. Ned Lamont has set a goal of 125,000-150,000 EVs by 2025, and signed a letter last year urging President Joe Biden to phase out sales of new internal combustion cars by 2035. Connecticut is also providing purchase incentives to make new and used EVs more affordable and expanding charging infrastructure to streamline the transition.

These are the right steps, yet this plan has a glaring omission: Connecticut remains one of the most regressive and restrictive states for buying an EV — currently requiring all new cars in the state to be sold through a dealer as a middleman, and blocking test drives and deliveries by some EV manufacturers.

Tesla, now joined by Rivian and Lucid, have been working in the legislature for almost six sessions to open Connecticut's EV market. Polling last year showed that 83% of Connecticut residents support opening the state for direct sales. Furthermore, sales data shows that states with direct sales have EV adoption rates that are 4.8 times higher than closed states.

Connecticut's auto dealers defend the status quo, where they have the exclusive right to sell all new vehicles in the state, on the basis that opening for direct sales would harm their businesses and have a negative impact on employment. An analysis by the Acadia Center found, on the contrary, direct sales has had no negative impact on dealership employment on other states in the Northeast region. Additional review of data provided by the National Automobile Dealers Association through its annual NADA data report reflects this trend nationally: States that are fully or partially open for direct sales have seen higher dealership sales and employment growth than closed states.

While direct sales have not harmed existing dealership businesses in any state, preventing EV manufacturers from entering the market has also blocked jobs and investment from these companies, and had a clear chilling impact on Connecticut's EV adoption rates. As of August 2021, Connecticut had 23,000 plug-in vehicles on the road — only 15%-18% of the way toward the governor's 2025 target. Connecticut lags Florida, Utah, Maryland and Massachusetts (all open states) in per-capita EV adoption.

There's another downside to the dealer system that everyday Connecticut families are facing: Supply chain disruptions and other market forces have restricted vehicle supply, and dealerships have added significant markups to both electric and conventional vehicles. In January 2021 only 2.8% of vehicles were sold above sticker price — in January 2022 that number skyrocketed to 82.2%. Some popular electric vehicle models have seen five-digit markups and manufacturers ranging from Ford to Hyundai have asked dealerships to stop.

The direct sales model offers car buyers a more transparent alternative to the dealership system, where they must negotiate over the price of a car. Furthermore, it reduces barriers to buying an electric vehicle. Current restrictions in Connecticut force Tesla, Rivian or Lucid buyers to travel across state lines to test-drive or take delivery of their EV of choice.

Connecticut must make up for lost time to meet climate goals and realize the broader benefits of EV adoption. The most straightforward path to success, which comes at no cost to the taxpayer while offering an alternative to dealer markups, is to simply allow a fair and open market for EVs. Doing so will help improve air quality, create good-paying jobs and demonstrate that Connecticut is ready for a cleaner transportation future.

Amy McLean is Connecticut director and senior policy advocate at Acadia center, a nonprofit research and advocacy organization that works to advance a clean energy future.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Small price to pay to hurt Putin, help Ukraine

Since Vladimir Putin has been obsessed with delusions of grandeur and invaded Ukraine, the world has been watching with sadness and horror. If he is allowed to continue with this war and defeat another sovereign country, what will stop other autocrats from imitating him and his actions? Because Ukraine is not a NATO member, the United States and the other NATO countries can't commit to sending troops. We and other NATO countries have instituted sanctions against Russia. This is not enough. I agree with Nancy Pelosi that we needed to shut off export of Russian crude oil to the U.S. Yes, this will continue to inflate gas prices but it is a small price to pay for those of us who are not directly involved with Putin's war. During World War II Americans made sacrifices: Rationing food, recycling tires and collecting items necessary to support the war effort. We can do it again. I would gladly pay the increased price of gas if I knew that this might be one of the actions that would cause Putin to lose power and control over Russia. Ukraine cannot do this alone.

Patricia Karwoski, Farmington

Hartford protesters have priorities wrong

Protesters in Hartford complained that President Joe Biden made promises in his State of the Union address regarding immigration that he has not kept. This complaint was a misrepresentation of Biden's speech. He did not make promises on immigration since he knows only Congress has the authority to make laws. He made requests that Congress make laws to address the problems with immigration because Congress has refused to move on these issues for years. Instead of complaining about Biden because he hasn't done something that he has no power to do under our Constitution, these protesters should work to elect representatives and senators who will stop stonewalling on immigration and pass legislation to address these problems.

Ralph White, West Hartford

A plan for those confiscated Russian yachts

It would be great if we could give confiscated yachts owned by oligarchs to the Ukrainians to be used as war vessels to engage Russian warships in the Black Sea. Ukrainians with shoulder-fired missiles could possibly sink a Russian ship and of course if the yacht was sunk, well too bad oligarchs. Just think how conflicted the oligarchs would be.

Steve Shongut, Manchester

State unjustly benefiting from global conflict

As the Connecticut budget surplus grows and grows, our Hartford legislators are faced with a challenge. How can this surplus provide financial relief to taxpayers, and how can we make that happen as soon as possible? The answer has never been more clear. Most Connecticut adults, the wealthy, middle class, poor, property owners and renters, purchase fuel for their vehicles. The Connecticut tax on fuel is a percentage of the fuel price per gallon. Therefore, as oil prices increase, fuel tax increases. This is not the time for Connecticut to unfairly and unnecessarily financially benefit from global conflict and its impact on oil prices. Reduce the fuel tax, cap the tax at a fixed cost per gallon, and gradually restore the tax as economic conditions and oil prices allow. It's time to help everyone.

Hiram Kelsey, Southington

Oil companies should pitch in, help the cause

While we understand that the effects of the pandemic have caused petroleum prices to increase and that the war in Ukraine has exacerbated the problem, the excessive rise is a serious problem — although not nearly as severe as what the poor Ukrainians are enduring. Many families here will be hurting from the effects of energy prices. Our government is looking into what it can do to mitigate this. But what about the oil companies? Is it not possible, even desirable, for them to temporarily reduce their profits a bit and hold the line on excessive price hikes? Come on Exxon/Mobile, Shell, etc., and show your customers that you care and are willing to help.

Tom Calabrese, Tolland

Similarities between Jan. 6 attack and Russia

If the Russian government had held Vladimir Putin accountable for his participation in corruption and voter fraud 20 years ago, would we be talking about war atrocities in Ukraine today? Current Republican Party members might want to think long and hard about dismissing the Jan. 6 treasonous attack orchestrated by Donald Trump and his cronies. Our Democratic form of government was within minutes of turning into what Russia is now. Can we as a country let what happened at our Capitol just fade away to placate a morally flawed and corrupt past president? I am aware that extrapolating what Russia would have become if Putin was nipped in the bud 22 years ago is pure conjecture, but putting up with, much less following, malicious self-indulgent corrupt politicians has never been a winning scenario. Holding Trump and his loyal subordinates accountable in 2022 is how we nip his dictatorial form of government in the bud.

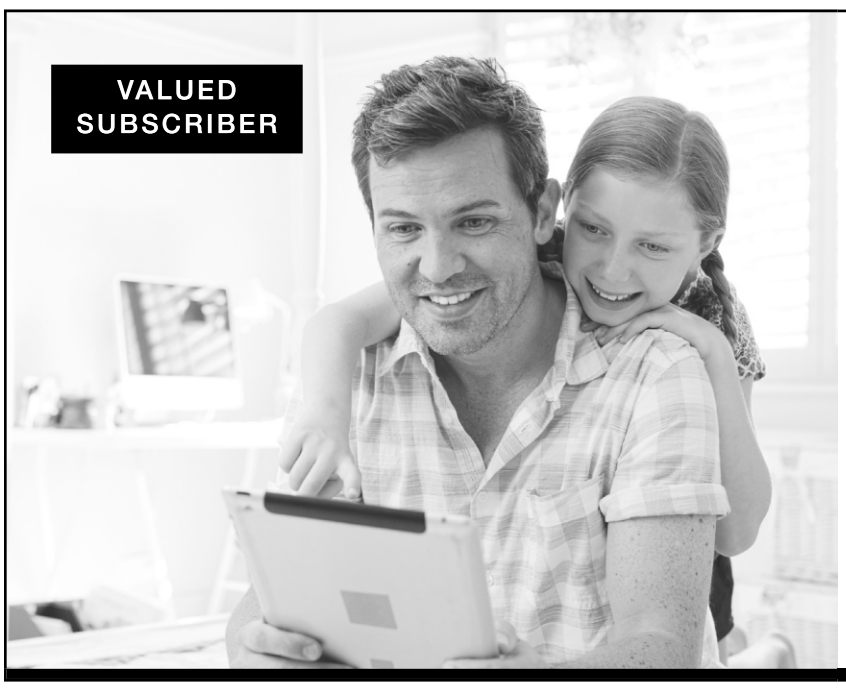
Michael Cashman, Newington

Teach Connecticut kids about climate crisis

Connecticut needs to support HB 5285 requiring mandatory teaching of climate change in public schools. It is now optional and most schools don't teach it. When our children hear the life-changing threats from climate change by our leaders, including our president, they become confused, anxious and concerned. Most parents are ill-equipped to properly explain climate change and global warming. It's intimidating even to adults. So it's time to get our kids out of the dark. This crisis will play a major role in their lives. They should be properly taught the causes, consequences and actions to minimize the impact while we still have time. It is important that they learn the many reasons for hope for the future.

Connecticut and California are called key-indicator states. These are states that lead the nation with new ideas and actions for improving life. California has recently enacted making the teaching of climate change mandatory in public schools. We should show the same leadership and do likewise. Educating our kids will provide increased pathways for solving this crisis. They are our future.

Maxwell Warren, Avon



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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) Achievement First of Connecticut invites proposals from Food Service Management Companies (FSMC) to provide services in accordance with the National School Breakfast Program and National School Lunch Program. In New Haven and Bridgeport, we have seven K - 12 schools located at five sites that operate ten months per year.

An optional virtual pre-bid conference is scheduled for March 28, 2022 at 10:30 am. Responses are due April 19, 2022, at 5:00 pm and must be received electronically. RFP materials may be accessed through CTsource at https://portal.ct.gov/DAS/CTSource/BidBoard. You can find a copy of the RFP for New Haven and Bridgeport FSMC 2022 here: https://www.achievementfirst.org/schools/connecticut/

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Connecticut

LEGAL NOTICE
INVITATION TO BID
HILL CENTRAL REVITALIZATION – PHASE 1

Enterprise Builders Inc. ("EBI"), acting as General Contractor for Westmount Development, will receive qualified subcontractor proposals for the work associated with the project known as Hill Central Revitalization – Phase 1 (the "Project"). Bids shall be received via e-mail at bids@enterbuilders.com, on or before 3:00 p.m. local time on Tuesday, April 5, 2022. Bid bonds and Payment & Performance Bonds are not required.
The Work includes the construction of 64 Passive House Institute US certified residential units arranged in 7 townhouse style buildings and 1 garden apartment including related site development and building demolition. The project will be constructed in 2 stages.
Available bid packages include: Building Demolition and Abatement (Phase 1 and Phase 2), Temporary Fencing, Sitework, Paving, Permanent Fencing, Final Cleaning, Landscaping, Site Concrete, Concrete, Gypsum Cement Underlayment, Masonry, Steel, Rough Carpentry, Finish Carpentry/ Casework, Wood Stairs, Siding, Air Sealing and Thermal Insulation, Asphalt Shingle Roofing, Gutters and Downspouts, Membrane Roofing, Waterproofing, EIFS, Firestopping, Doors/Frames/Hardware, Glazing/Auto Entry Operators, New Passive House Windows, Drywall, Tile, Resilient Flooring, Carpet, Painting, Signage, Toilet Accessories, Postal Specialties, Fire Protection Specialties, Residential Appliances, Window Treatments, Residential Casework and Countertops, Elevator, Fire Suppression, Plumbing, HVAC, Electrical, and Solar. Bid package instructions and forms will be issued via addendum. Drawings can be viewed free of charge via iSqFt. Please reach out to the EBI contact below to request an invitation to bid. Documents may also be viewed at EBI's office, 46 Shepard Drive, Newington, CT (8:00 am – 5:00 pm M-F) where a disc with all documents may be obtained free of charge.
This project is taxable on new construction. This project is State and Federally funded, and Residential Davis-Bacon prevailing wage rates apply.
This contract is subject to State and local set-aside and contract compliance requirements.
For RFI's and all other questions, please contact Justin Caporiccio at jcaporiccio@enterbuilders.com or by phone (860) 466–5104. All subcontractor bids must be submitted to bids@enterbuilders.com.
The Owner and EBI reserve the rights to accept any, all, or any part of bids; to reject any, all, or any part of bids; to waive any non-material deficiencies in bid responses, to waive minor inconsistencies; and to award the bid that in its judgment will be in the best interests of the Owner.
EBI is an Affirmative Action / Equal Opportunity Employer. Section 3, Veteran-owned and Small/Minority/Women's business Enterprises are encouraged to participate.
3/18, 3/19/2022 7172056

Legal Notice
Request for Proposals
Automated Work Zone Speed Control
Design-Build Pilot Project

The Connecticut Department of Transportation is seeking to engage a contracting firm to provide services related to Automated Work Zone Speed Control pilot project. More detailed information regarding this project can be found at:
https://webprocure.perfect.com/wp-web-public/#/bidboard/bid/98540?customerid=51
Connecticut Department of Transportation
An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer
3/17-4/1/2022 7171086

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Connecticut

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
SUPERIOR COURT
JUVENILE MATTERS

ORDER OF NOTICE

Notice To: Benjamin Doolittle, father of children born to Amber T. on 9/2/05

of parts unknown.

A petition has been filed seeking:
Termination of parental rights of the above named child(ren).
The petition, whereby the court's decision can affect your parental rights, if any, regarding minor child(ren) will be heard on:
4/14/22 @ 9:45am at SCJM 25 School Street, Rockville, CT 06066
Therefore, ORDERED, that notice of the hearing of this petition be given by publishing this Order of Notice once,
immediately upon receipt, in the Hartford Courant, a newspaper having a circulation in the town/city of Enfield, CT
Judge : Hon. Dawne Westbrook
Signed: K Benegyani
Date signed: 3/15/22

Right to Counsel: Upon proof of inability to pay for a lawyer, the court will make sure an attorney is provided to you by the Chief Public Defender. Request for an attorney should be made immediately in person, by mail, or by fax at the court office where your hearing is to be held.
03/19/22 7173166

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Dogs

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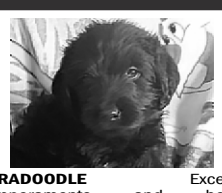
BLACK LAB RETRIEVER PUPPY M $850 1st shots & dewormed. 8.5 wks 802-895-2784



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Saturdays in MOTORING

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OBITUARIES BY TOWN

Bristol
Randall B. Devoe
Ellington
Helen A. Valentine
Glastonbury
Helga Dickau
Minnie Kincaid
Other Towns in CT
Benjamin Ancona
Samuel Blonstein
Plainville
Eugene Beaulieu
Priscilla Dombroski
Simsbury
Helga Dickau
Southington
Anthony J. Mastrianni
Vernon
Samuel Blonstein
Richard F. Guerreri
Windsor Locks
Judith Rothe

*** Denotes name listing only.**
Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order.

OBITUARIES

Ancona, Benjamin



Benjamin Ancona, 84, of Coventry, Connecticut, passed away peacefully at his home on Friday, March 18, 2022. He immigrated from Italy in 1962 and was the eldest son of the late Frank and Maria (Scotella) Ancona.
Ben was a painting contractor and a life member of Painters, Local 481, a Fourth-Degree member of the Knights of Columbus, and a self-taught businessman who also owned and managed real estate. Ben was blessed with a beautiful tenor voice and had a particular passion for singing Italian songs and light opera. He was a cantor and soloist at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Lebanon where his wife was an organist and also provided tenor solos at numerous other establishments and churches for weddings, funerals, baptisms, and other special occasions as well as benefits.
He is survived by his beloved wife Marcia (Rouse) Ancona of 43 years; two sons, Benjamin Ancona Jr. and his wife Jennifer, Frank Ancona and his wife Katie; two daughters, Jane Siegel and her husband Peter, and Maria Ancona; and twelve grandchildren. Ben is also survived by four brothers, Joseph Ancona, Antonio Ancona, John Ancona and his wife Lora, and Michael Ancona and his wife Jackie, several nephews, nieces and extended family members.
Ben had a unique personality and will be genuinely remembered by those who loved him.
Ben's family will receive relatives and friends on Wednesday, March 23, 2022 from 5:00pm-7:00pm at Potter Funeral Home, 456 Jackson Street, Willimantic, CT 06226. Burial will be private. For online memorial guestbook please visit www.potterfuneralhome.com.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Dickau, Helga (Siegmund)

Helga Dickau, 85, of Simsbury, CT was called to her eternal home Monday, passing peacefully in her sleep after a brief battle with cancer. She was born in Gross Kaerthen, East Prussia in 1936 and came to the U.S. in 1958, where she married in 1961 and had two sons. Helga is survived by her husband Ewald, her sons Marty (Ellen) and Perry (Katrine), her grandsons Erich and Bergen, and her sister Anita. A Celebration of Life service will be held Friday, March 18 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in New Hartford, followed by a light luncheon reception. The family requests in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, 1 Billy Graham Parkway, Charlotte, NC 28201 (https://billygraham.org) or to Hands of Grace, P.O. Box 145, 8 Wickett Street, Pine Meadow, CT 06061 (http://www.handsofgracect.org).

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Guerreri, Richard "Rico" F.



Richard F. "Rico" Guerreri of Vernon joined his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and Him Crucified, on Sunday, March 13, 2022. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Barbara (Adams) Guerreri.

He was born September 13, 1937, in Jersey City, NJ and was a resident of the Hartford area for most of his life. He graduated in 1959 from Norwich University in Northfield, VT with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the US Army. He also received a congressional appointment to the U.S. Air Force Academy. He served as a company grade officer with the 33rd Armor Heavy Tank Battalion and the 68th Armor Medium Tank Battalion in Kitzingen, Germany and as a staff officer with the Armor School in Fort Knox, KY. After 5 years of service he was honorably discharged and joined the Pratt & Whitney Purchasing department for 28 years until he retired. He also was a self-employed tax return preparer, a past president of the Ellington Little League, a charter member of Red Sox Nation, a longtime devoted fan of the UCONN women's basketball team and an NRA life member.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his beloved children, Rick and his wife Cindy; Nick and his wife Heide, Diane and her husband Dan Griffin, and Michael and his fiancee Hope Calve. Also, his sister-in-law Doris Stewart Guerreri, his very special grandchildren, Casey Marie, Paige, Christopher, Cody, Devin and Danny; also a beautiful great-grandson, Glen Thomas; and a niece, Amy. He was predeceased by his parents, Frank and Hope Guerreri and his brother, Robert M. Guerreri.

A private graveside service and burial will be held in the Lugg Memorial Field section of Grove Hill Cemetery in Vernon. Richard requested that memorial donations be made in his memory to St. Joseph's Indian School, Chamberlain, SD 57326 – www.stjo.org

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Mastrianni, Anthony J.

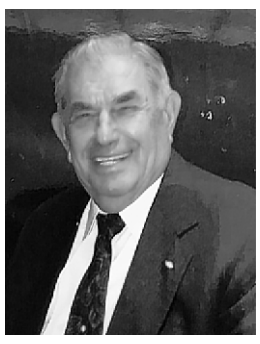


Anthony J. Mastrianni, 79, of Southington, passed away on Thursday, March 10, 2022 at the HOCC at New Britain General.
He was born March 16, 1942 in New Britain and was the son of the late Tony and Anna May (Sullivan) Mastrianni.
Tony served with the U.S Army and was a member of the American Legion Post 72.
He is survived by his five brothers, Ken and wife Lee-Ann, Richard and wife Lucille, Thomas, Edward and James; two sisters, Patricia Cirelli and husband Pasquale and Rose Bellenhauser. He also leaves numerous nieces and nephews.
He was predeceased by a brother William and two sisters, Jean Brayton and Lorraine Hellenbrand.
A graveside service with military honors will be held on Monday, March 28th at 11 a.m. at St. Thomas Cemetery, Meriden Ave., Southington. The DellaVecchia Funeral Home, 211 N. Main St., Southington has been entrusted with the arrangements. For online condolences please visit, www.dellavecchiasouthington.com

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OBITUARIES

Blonstein, Samuel



It is with great sorrow and heavy hearts that we say goodbye to a cherished father, grandfather, great grandfather, uncle and friend. Samuel "Papa" Gene Blonstein died Thursday, March 17, 2022, at the young age of 94. He was born July 28, 1927, in Rockville, the beloved son of the late Reuben and Lottie (Millstein) Blonstein. He graduated from Rockville High School and enlisted in the U.S. Navy where he served until the end of World War II. A number of years later, he met and married the love of his life, Lillian. They shared a beautiful life in Rockville. Sam and Lillian ran the original family business, Blonstein Fuel, which was a scrap metal yard, a coal business, and a fuel oil delivery service. Together they worked diligently to expand the business and establish, manage, and co-own Blonstein's Camping Center. For many years, Sam refereed high school and college basketball and soccer games and umpired baseball games. Sam had two great passions in life. The first was his love for his children and grandchildren. He was always a cheering spectator at all of their activities. The newest member of the family was his great granddaughter, Lily, who brought him a new joy. Sam loved playing with his Boston Terrier grand dog, Jules, who he always affectionally called, "Mutt." The second passion of Sam's was being involved in service to his community. He had been a member of the Sphinx Shriners for 37 years. During that time, the Sphinx Shriners Motor Patrol members became like a second family to him. He served as captain twice and also as president. Sam joyfully watched as his son and grandson also joined the organization. The three of them often participated in riding the "little cars" in parades to raise money for Shriners Children's Hospitals. Sam also had been a member of the Omar Shrine Club. He was proud to be a 70-year member of Fayette Masonic Lodge No. 69 and also belonged to other Masonic organizations including the Scottish Rite and the Trinity Chapter No. 9 of York Rite. Sam was a life member of the Rockville Elks #1359. He held the honor of being one of the longest continuous members of the CT Post No. 0014 of the American Legion. As a businessman, Sam had been a member and past president of the Tolland County Chamber of Commerce. He loved watching Red Sox games and rooting for the UConn men's and women's basketball teams. Sam loved playing setback at the Vernon and Ellington senior centers, the Elks club or anywhere there was a game. He also enjoyed being the Bingo caller when he wasn't playing it. Left to cherish his memory are his two devoted and grateful children: Sherry Bedore and Bart Blonstein, both of Vernon. Sam was the beloved and adored "Papa" to his grandchildren: Lindi Bedore, Weston Bedore and his wife Brittany, and Cailyn Blonstein and her fiancé Matthew Redding. He was also the great grandfather to Lily Bedore. Sam was predeceased by his loving wife of 58 joyful years. He was also predeceased by his sister Rosalyn (Nancy) Novgrad. The family would like to thank all of the nurses and staff at Manchester Manor and The Residence at South Windsor Farms for their compassionate care and for helping them through this difficult time. As we grieve that Papa is gone from our world, we rejoice that we had him for so long. His loving and caring spirit will live on in his children, grandchildren and great grandchild for generations to come. Papa leaves a void that no one can fill. Funeral services will be held on Sunday, March 20, 2022, at 11 a.m. in the Chapel of the Weinstein Mortuary at 640 Farmington Ave. in Hartford. Both a Masonic ceremony and an Elks ceremony will take place. A brief graveside ceremony will follow with full military honors at the Beth Olam Cemetery on Edith Rd. in South Windsor. His family will receive friends and relatives following the burial at the Bedore home at 159 Brookview Dr. in Vernon through Tuesday evening from 3 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Services will be held at 7 p.m. each night. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Sphinx Shriners Motor Patrol c/o Illustrious Past Potentate Weston Bedore at 97 Robertson St. in Bristol, CT 06010. For further information, directions, or to sign the guest book for Sam, please go online to www.weinstein-mortuary.com/funerals.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Kinder, Robert "Bob"



Robert (Bob) D. Kinder, 86 of Dataw Island, SC passed away on Monday, March 14, 2022.
Bob was born on November 23, 1935 in the family farmhouse in Cape Girardeau, MO the son of the late Robert Ernest and Desdie Pearl (Stroder) Kinder. Shortly after, the family moved to Pine Bluff, AR where Bob spent his childhood. He graduated from Pine Bluff High School in 1953 and then attended the University of Arkansas where he became a lifelong Razorback fan and graduated with a business degree. During these years, Bob also served in the Navy stationed at Great Lakes Naval Base.
Bob began a 25 year career with Aetna Insurance Company in 1960, starting in Chicago with subsequent moves to Little Rock, St Louis, Philadelphia, and finally Hartford as a Director of Employee Benefits. After retiring Bob and his wife, Sue, moved from Simsbury, CT to Dataw on St Helena Island, SC where they enjoyed a wonderful community of friends. An avid golfer, Bob played regularly at Dataw and at courses all over the country.
Bob was an outdoorsman. As a youth he completed his Eagle Scout badge. In his adult years, in addition to golf, he played tennis, skied, and hunted. He earned his pilot's license in his 50s and loved to fly with his dog Raisin or visiting friends and grandchildren. He was a voracious reader of history. He was a very social guy and one who loved to play pranks on his family. Bob and Sue spent many wonderful summers in Westport, MA, gathering their children and grandchildren for beach walks, games and lobster dinners.
Survivors include: his wife of 45 years, Susan Spencer Kinder; daughters, Sarah Kinder and Marjorie Kinder Duckett (John), step-daughters Elizabeth Johnson (Eric), Deborah Couch (Bill) and Katherine Cesark (Mark); his sister Rebecca Brooks; thirteen grandchildren; two great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by 3 sisters.
In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association or a charity of your choice in his memory. A private memorial service with the family will be held at a later date.
Anderson Funeral Home & Crematory is serving the family.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Valentine, Helen Ann (Stealey)



Helen Ann (Stealey) Valentine, 88, of Ellington, passed peacefully on Tuesday, March 15, 2022.

Helen leaves behind her son Phillip Valentine and his wife Sandy, their children Colleen Tsilimos and her husband Steffan, Joshua Valentine and his wife Madeline, Samantha Valentine, Matthew Valentine, and Mary Valentine; her daughter Shelly Chapman and her husband Sumner, their sons, Steven Chapman, Tyler Chapman and Jason Chapman. She also leaves behind her great grandchildren Elizabeth and TJ Tsilimos and a dear friend, Bobby Russell. Born in Kilgore, TX (although she often said either simply "Texas" or "the oil fields of Texas"), she grew up on a Missouri farm, attended the University of Kansas, served as a nurse in New York City, and moved to Connecticut to raise a family while working at Manchester Memorial Hospital. She ultimately left nursing and made a courageous career change to learn bartending and successfully ran Pastori's and Cedar Knob restaurants. Helen loved spending time with her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren; she thoroughly enjoyed cruises, travel, tennis, bowling, games and cards.

Her family will receive friends for memorial calling hours on Thursday, March 24th from 3:00 – 5:00 pm with a memorial service beginning at 5:00 pm at the Ladd-Turkington & Carmon Funeral Home, 551 Talcottville Road (Route 83), Vernon. The family would love and appreciate hearing stories about Helen.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to ECHN Visiting Nurse and Health Services of Connecticut and/or the Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery (CCAR). For complete obituary and to leave online condolences for the family, please visit www.carmon-funeralhome.com

CARMON
Community Funeral Homes

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Hartford Courant media group
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Kincaid, Minnie



On March 17, 2022, Minnie Kincaid, passed away peacefully at the Glastonbury Healthcare Center at the age of 84. Minnie was born on June 3, 1937, in Oil City, PA and lived in CT nearly her entire life. She retired from Anchor Glass in Dayville after 35 years. Minnie was an avid BINGO player, was very spiritual in her faith, loved her family, and had a good sense of humor.

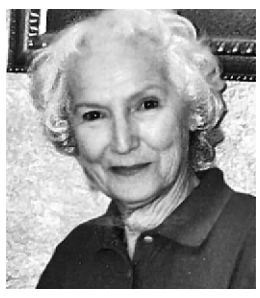
Minnie is survived by her children Richard Hatfield and his wife Song, Skip Frantz and his wife Pam, Kevin Hatfield and his wife Joan, Norman Labbe, and Brenda Abele and her husband Joe; grandchildren Josef Abele and his wife Jennifer, Alyssa Abele, Julia Flood and her husband Jack, Amanda Borodkin and her husband Michael, Michelle Swain and her husband Tristan, Christy Frantz, Melissa Frantz and her significant other Juan, and Melinda Frantz; as well as 13 great grandchildren.

Services will be private. For online condolences, please visit www.tierneyfuneralhome.com.

JOHN F. Tierney
TIERNEYFUNERALHOME.COM

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Rothe, Judith (Petrie)



Judith Marie (Petrie) Rothe, of Windsor Locks, entered into eternal rest in her home on Wednesday, March 16, 2022. Judith was born in Hartford, CT on April 22, 1935, and was the daughter of the late Sidney and Dorothy (Chesbro) Petrie.
Judy moved to Manchester, CT at a young age. She was class of 1953, Manchester High. She met her husband, Robert Rothe in 1951 and together they raised 4 children. She was a very loving and kind woman, fantastic mother, a great cook and house-keeper. She also taught Sunday school at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Suffield, CT.
Judy is survived by her 4 children, David, Kim, Paul and Lisa; she was a grandmother to 7 grandchildren, Robert Rothe, Sarah Rothe, John Wood, Michelle Wood, Rachel Cormier, Hannah Cormier and Leah Cormier, children to Bruce Cormier; and one sister Shirley Ramisk. Besides her parents, Judy was predeceased by her sister Marilyn Dion. Judy's children believed she was the best mom in the whole wide world. We miss you and love you. Bob would like to extend a special thank you to Kim and Paul who helped him through this tough time, as well as thanks to all hospice nurses and aides.
Services will be held privately at the convenience of the family. To leave online condolences please visit www.windsorlocksfuneralhome.com

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IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory Of
MARY (TEDONE) ARONNE

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In Loving Memory Of
ROBERT L. DROWN



3/19/39 – 11/29/03
Thinking of you, Bob, not only on this special day, your birthday, but every day because we miss you so much.
All Our Love,
Your wife, children, grandchildren, sisters, and friends

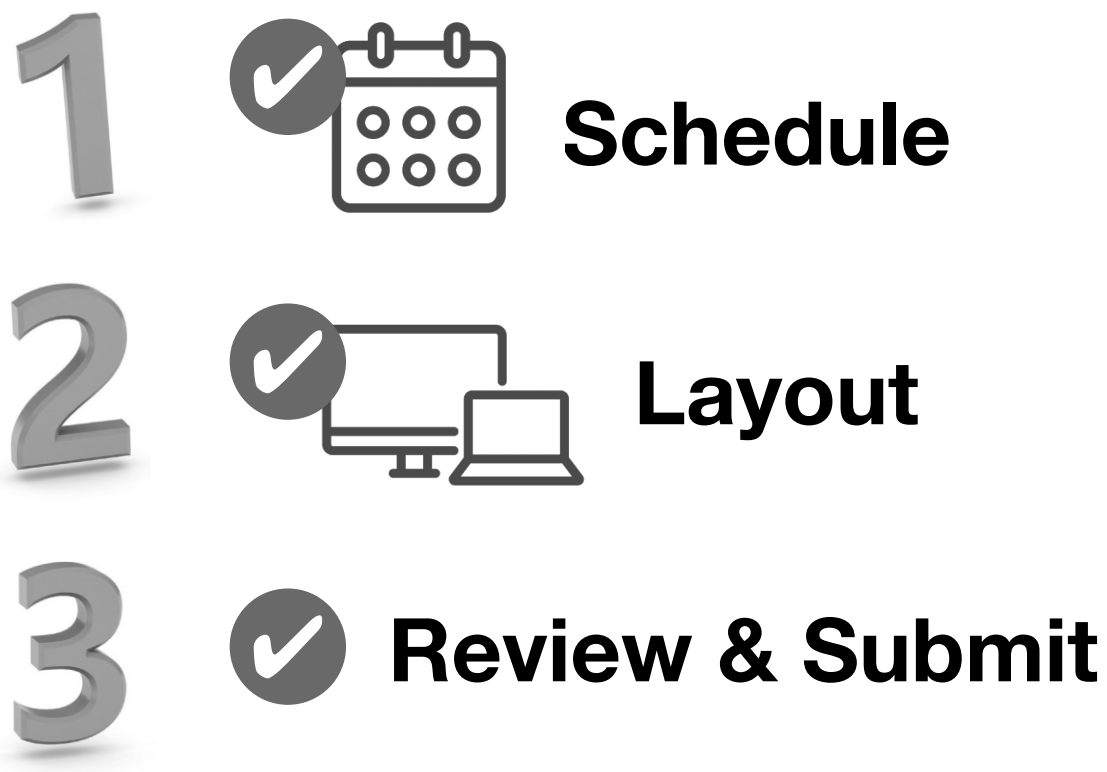


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CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

Jobless insurance: Who's on the hook?

Businesses ask for relief funding to help pay down major debt, but organized labor opposes the move

By Stephen Singer
Hartford Courant

Connecticut businesses asked the General Assembly Friday to help pay down more than $800 million in unemployment insurance from when joblessness soared during the pandemic.

Organized labor opposes the move, arguing the state should instead rely on business taxes and avoid using federal COVID-19 relief funding that could otherwise be spent to hire government workers and boost public services.

Businesses have repaid $300 million borrowed from the federal government in the last two years, said Eric Gjede, a lobbyist for the Connecticut Business & Industry Association. The remaining principal is $463 million and businesses also are on the hook for more than $350 million in interest and credit reductions in the coming years, he said.

"It's a massive strain that really undermines the state's economic recovery," he told the legislature's Appropriations Committee. "It's the business community and the business community alone that typically repays that."

The tab for unemployment insurance is in addition to numerous other problems such as rising costs due to supply chain bottlenecks, inflation and worker shortages, Gjede said.

Following the Great Recession of 2008-09 when unemployment spiked, businesses paid higher unemployment insurance taxes and special assessments "year after year," he said.

Ed Hawthorne, president of the Connecticut AFL-CIO, said spending federal relief money would divert "funds that could be used to support current investment or employment."

"Eventually, if we want a robust UI system that protects workers, we need to collect more money from employers through UI taxes," he said. "Refilling public sector jobs, for example, and the full value of services these workers provide, would do more for economic growth than paying down more UI debt."

Unemployment soared in 2020, with nearly 300,000 jobs disappearing early that year after Gov. Ned Lamont and state public health officials ordered businesses shut to limit the spread of COVID-19. At the peak of the employment crisis in early May 2020, the state Department of Labor worked through about 319,000 weekly unemployment insurance claims, or nearly 19% of Connecticut's labor force.

House Republican Leader Vincent Candelora of North Branford said the amount earmarked for the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund will be negotiated as part of the budget process.

"This was purely COVID-related," he said. "To suggest we allocate COVID dollars to different interests and ignore our

Turn to Funding, Page 2



An artist's rendering shows the Krown Point Capital project under construction in Granby. The configuration of units in the company's proposed Bloomfield project would be different, but the amenities and target market would be similar. **KROWN POINT CAPITAL/COURTESY**

A different direction for stalled Bloomfield project

New developer, with plan for upscale townhouses and duplexes, wants to take over

By Don Stacom
Hartford Courant

The developer building 75 duplexes in Granby is seeking to construct 90 townhouses and attached duplexes in Bloomfield.

Krown Point Capital on Tuesday applied for zoning permission to build the project at the end of Ryefield Hollow Drive on a site that was initially proposed for single-family homes.

"They'll be higher-end and mostly three-bedrooms, over 1,600 square feet," Reggie Kronstadt, principal of the company, said Thursday.

Krown Point's plan is to take over the Maulucci Home Builders' stalled development project on the site, but with major changes.

Maulucci won approval in 2019 to build 51 single-family houses, and the town agreed in 2020 when Maulucci changed that to 71 units — 33 detached houses and 38 townhouses. Even so, Maulucci never got under way with construction.

Krown Point's proposal is for mid-term and long-term leased rentals, and Kronstadt said amenities will include a clubhouse, pool, dog park, barbecues and fire pits.

"The plan depicts a total of 90 single-family attached units made up of 68 attached townhouse units and 22 attached duplex housing units," according to a report by F.A. Hesketh & Associate, Krown Point's traffic consultant for the project.

"It is our understanding that the 90 revised housing units will be market-rate rental units marketed toward empty nesters, workforce singles and partners that customarily have fewer children in their households than traditional single-family households," according to Hesketh's report, which was filed at town hall.

Maulucci, a Bloomfield-based builder, owns more than 35 acres of the open, rolling fields west of the end of Ryefield Hollow Drive. It would sell the property to

Turn to Bloomfield, Page 2

"The 90 revised housing units will be market-rate rental units marketed toward empty nesters, workforce singles and partners that customarily have fewer children in their households ..."

— Report from F.A. Hesketh & Associate, Krown Point's traffic consultant for the project in Bloomfield

Nursing home deaths probed

Report: Resident who didn't get meds was 1 of 3 dead in a month

By Dave Altimari
CT Mirror

A resident of Quinnipiac Valley Center nursing home in Wallingford had a fatal heart attack in February after the staff allegedly failed to give her all of her prescribed medications for several days, an investigation report shows.

The resident, identified by the state medical examiner's office as a 41-year-old woman, was admitted to the Quinnipiac Valley Center on Jan. 28. She had a seizure disorder and "profound intellectual disabilities," according to an investigation by the state Department of Public Health. Among the medications that they were supposed to be administered daily were Clobazam, Diazepam and Dilantin to help control the seizures, according to DPH.

Investigators learned that in the five days since the woman had been admitted, the staff allegedly had administered only one dose of the Diazepam, none of the Clobazam until the date of death and only one dose of Dilantin. The woman was found unresponsive in her bed on the evening of Feb. 2 and pronounced dead of a heart attack by a staff doctor.

The woman was one of three residents who died within a month, according to the office of the state medical examiner. On Jan. 16, a 70-year-old woman died of COVID at Yale New Haven Hospital, and on Jan. 24, a 64-year-old man died of complications from diabetes.

The deaths led to the DPH investigation that began Feb. 3, the day after the 41-year-old woman died. Earlier this week, the DPH issued an order to close the facility and move its 94 residents to other long-term care facilities. DPH officials have said they had no choice but to close the facility because of concerns for patients' safety.

The death was detailed in

Turn to Deaths, Page 2

Trend of catalytic converter thefts continues across state

Windsor Locks cop describes close call with thief: 'I thought for sure they were going to hit me head-on'

By Jesse Leavenworth
Hartford Courant

Catalytic converter thieves continue their quick surgeries on cars, trucks and buses across Connecticut, a trend that has become increasingly hazardous for police officers who confront the crooks.

Windsor Locks Det. Dan Bontempo was the latest officer to survive a close call. Bontempo was on a suspicious-person call Thursday at about 2:15 a.m. when he heard the distinct sound of a metal-cutting saw in the parking lot of the Homewood Suites by Hilton across Route 75.

A jack beneath the targeted car was released and Bontempo saw the car hit the pavement. Another police officer pulled into the parking lot, and Bontempo drove his marked police cruiser around the hotel to cover the other exit. He parked and was about to get out and put down a tire flattening device when the thief sped straight at him.

"I braced myself for the impact," Bontempo said. "I thought for sure they were going to hit me head-on."

The thief missed the cruiser by inches and fled from the lot onto Route 75 and on to Route 20, where a state trooper spotted the car but did not maintain a chase, Bontempo said. Police around the state are subject to a policy that prohibits pursuits in cases where larceny or other non-violent crimes are the only suspected offenses.

This was the third catalytic converter theft in town this week, Bontempo said. Thieves have targeted parking lots and businesses. In the past year, a local plumbing and heating contractor has reported 26 stolen converters, Bontempo said.

The problem is nationwide, according to the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) and has been ramping up since the start of the coronavirus pandemic. Metals in the pollution control equipment are valuable and can fetch several hundred dollars each.

Cops around the state have gotten increasingly familiar with the thefts.

"We're seeing the uptick," state police spokeswoman Sgt. Dawn Pagan said. Troopers regularly check commuter lots for catalytic converter thieves and other criminals, she said.

In Glastonbury, reported thefts of vehicle parts, mostly converters, total 26 so far this year, police spokesman Lt. Corey Davis said. The thefts have climbed from 14 cases in 2020 to a record 56 incidents last year, Davis said. If the trend continues, the total this year could reach 100, he said.

Vernon police spokesman Lt. Robert Marra noted that experienced thieves can remove a converter quickly and be gone from the scene. In Vernon and other towns, school buses have been targeted.

The "cat" thieves typically use stolen cars to make their rounds. Last month, state police investigating a fatal car crash in Manchester found stolen converters, license plates and guns amid the wreckage.

Police say they do not know where thieves are cashing in the converters, but state officials need to do something, Bontempo said, whether it's a crackdown on scrap dealers or higher bonds for suspects or some other solution. The continuing thefts pose an imminent danger to police, he said.

"After what happened to the Farmington cop, it's only a matter of time," he said referring to an officer who suffered grievous injuries last year when a catalytic converter thief crushed him between the getaway car and the officer's cruiser.

Police aren't the only ones in danger. In January, a thief fired gunshots after a man confronted him sawing a catalytic converter off his neighbor's car. No one was hurt.

Jesse Leavenworth can be reached at jleavenworth@courant.com

CONNECTICUT

New London drug trafficker gets 2 years in cocaine mail conspiracy

Hartford Courant

A New London man was sentenced to two years in prison Thursday his role in a narcotics trafficking conspiracy in which cocaine was mailed through the U.S. Postal Service from Puerto Rico to southeastern Connecticut, according to federal authorities.

Raul Robles, 38, also was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Jeffrey A. Meyer in New Haven to three years of supervised release, federal authorities said in a statement.

The U.S. Postal Inspection Service's Narcotics and Bulk Cash Trafficking Task Force in Connecticut intercepted "a suspicious package" in August 2020 that was destined for a location in Puerto Rico and a court-authorized search of the package revealed $158,900 in cash, federal authorities said in the statement, citing court documents and statements made in court. "Investigators established a connection between Robles and the seized package, and learned that Robles' residence on Blackhall Street in New London, which he shared with his cousin, Abraham Rosado, had received approximately 25 parcels from Puerto Rico since September 2019."

The Task Force includes members from the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, U.S. Postal Service-Office of the Inspector General, Connecticut Army National Guard, and the Hartford, New Britain, Meriden and Town of Groton police departments.

Investigators then "continued to monitor USPS deliveries of parcels mailed from Puerto Rico to the Blackhall Street residence, including multiple parcels addressed to names of individuals who did not reside there," federal authorities said in the statement. "A court-authorized search of one parcel that had been mailed to a fictitious individual at the residence revealed more than a kilogram of cocaine."

Robles was arrested on a federal criminal complaint on April 9, 2021, and pleaded guilty on Sept. 21, to one count of conspiracy to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute cocaine, federal authorities said in the statement.

Robles, who is free on bond, is required to report to prison on April 28, according to federal authorities.

Rosado pleaded guilty on Feb. 17, and is detained while awaiting sentencing, federal authorities said in the statement.

The case was investigated by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service's Narcotics and Bulk Cash Trafficking Task Force, with assistance from the New London and Town of Groton police departments.

HARTFORD

St. Patrick's parade, Monster Jam may cause traffic delays

Hartford travelers can expect heavy traffic in some places and road closures in others because of two major events in the city today.

The Greater Hartford St. Patrick's Day Parade — rescheduled from last weekend because of bad weather — kicks off at 11 a.m. downtown, and the Monster Jam will start at the XL Center at 1 p.m., police said.

"Both events are expected to be well-attended," Lt. Aaron Boisvert said.

As a result, the capital city will have heavier vehicle and pedestrian traffic than usual, Boisvert said, and some streets along the parade route will be closed at 9:30 a.m.

Visitors, especially those going to the Monster Jam, are advised to leave early.

— Christine Dempsey

Funding

from Page 1

business interests is absurd."

The legislature last year budgeted $155 million to pay down the debt, but the state Department of Labor instead used the money for interest payments, Candelora said.



Candelora

The Department of Labor said applying the budgeted amount to interest saved employers $27 million in five years of special assessments and was "well within the scope of the 2021 legislation."

Connecticut entered the pandemic with a balance of $642 million in the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund, according to the agency. The fund was "quickly drained" as about 628,000 workers filed for state and federal unemployment benefits, according to the agency.

Since March 13, 2020, the Department of Labor disbursed nearly $11 billion in unemployment funding through the state program and several federal initiatives. In the last two years, Connecticut borrowed $874 million, repaid $425 million and expects to pay the balance within five years.

Stephen Singer can be reached at ssinger@courant.com.

"This was purely COVID-related. To suggest we allocate COVID dollars to different interests and ignore our business interests is absurd."

— House Republican Leader Vincent Candelora of North Branford



Vacant land in Bloomfield is proposed for 90 townhouses and duplexes. **DON STACOM/HARTFORD COURANT**

Bloomfield

from Page 1

Krown Point, and Kronstadt said his company's intention is to keep ownership of the project after it's developed.

If everything stays on schedule, groundbreaking would be in September or October and construction would be complete 18 to 24 months after that, he said.

Krown Point in early 2020 bought a 130-unit apartment complex in nearby Granby and become increasingly interested in central and northern Connecticut's development opportunities, Kronstadt said. "It was 45 percent leased, COVID hit and leasing stopped."

The company braced for extended vacancies, but after renovations and rebranding has been impressed at how quickly the market for those apartments bounced back.

"Now all the units are leased and we have a waiting list of 30," he said.

Krown Point is constructing 75 duplex units nearby on Murtha's Way in Granby and expects the first will be ready for occupancy in July.

Last fall, the company applied for permits to build a 12-story mixed-use building in Midtown Manhattan. The plan is to construct about 10,000 square feet of commercial space and 114 condos at East 50th Street and Second Avenue; Krown Point would take down the four-story building that's there now.

Don Stacom can be reached at dstacom@courant.com

Deaths

from Page 1

a 73-page inspection report, compiled by DPH inspectors after multiple visits to the facility, and obtained by the Connecticut Mirror.

Among the other alleged findings in the report: Another patient, diagnosed with diabetes, was rushed to the hospital because staff had allegedly failed to monitor their glucose level for several days as their blood/sugar level fell to dangerously low levels; staff treated recently admitted COVID-19 patients without wearing the proper personal protection equipment because they were unaware the person had tested positive; and that staff treated patients who had COVID on the same shifts and on the same floor as patients who didn't, violating protocols.

'A bombshell'

"This whole thing that's going on right now is a bombshell," said Gregory Brooks, a resident at Quinnipiac Valley for eight years who has acted as a residents' advocate, discussing complaints and issues with the staff and administrators.

"This is come out of the blue like a lightning bolt. I was not involved in any meeting. I was not involved in any sit-down discussions," Brooks said. "How did this happen? Everybody in here is in the same boat as I am — shocked."

Brooks said that there haven't been major problems at the facility before.

"There's four-star ratings, plaques all over the walls, and while there's been issues with staffing, my guess they aren't alone with that problem," Brooks said.

Brooks said he found out the facility was going to be closed from a staff member who came to check on him.

"Well, he goes, 'I'm losing my job. And all the other staff are too, we're all out of here. We're all gone,' " Brooks said. "I hadn't heard anything from anyone about anything. And to me, that's like common courtesy that you would give people — even a landlord would take a few minutes to go up and tell you why he is evicting you."

'Immediate jeopardy'

Investigators with DPH's Facilities Licensing and Investigations Section entered the building on Feb. 10 after receiving a complaint. It is unclear if the complaint was about the death of the resident a week earlier.

The initial inspection resulted in two findings of "Immediate Jeopardy," meaning the violations were serious enough to risk imminent harm to life. Those two cases were the woman who died and the resident who needed to go to the hospital because their glucose levels were not monitored.

DPH investigators interviewed staff and administrators to determine how staff had allegedly failed to administer medication or conduct basic checks.

The DPH report states that administrators were "unable to explain why medications were not ordered and ensure they were received timely for administration to the resident, and why a resident receiving insulin was not monitored after a decrease in blood glucose levels was ordered. The interview failed to identify why admitting documentation was not reviewed by the attending physician for a resident receiving insulin, and why the facility was unable to prevent the significant medication errors."

DPH directed a plan of correction, which included the appointment of a temporary manager on March 3. DPH appointed Kathrine Sachs as the temporary manager, the same person who was placed into the Three Rivers Health care facility in Norwich in 2020 when a COVID outbreak occurred in that faculty and four people died.

Three Rivers was the last long-term care facility closed down by the state. Sachs recommended that it be closed after only a few days overseeing that facility.

Sachs reported to DPH additional issues with the facility, including, among other things, systemic problems with medication errors, DPH officials said.

COVID-19 patients

The facility allegedly also failed to put proper infection control precautions in place, the report states.

The infection control issues revolved around two COVID patients who came to the facility in early February.

The inspection revealed that they weren't identified as COVID patients to staff, so many of them went into their rooms not wearing proper PPE such as isolation gowns. Inspectors unknowingly visited the room of one of the COVID patients during one of their inspections.

Several staff members told DPH inspectors they had no idea one of the residents was COVID positive and that they had treated other patients after going into the rooms of the COVID-positive resident.

Following the inspections, DPH notified Quinnipiac Valley officials that they had until early March to present a plan of correction, but after Sachs took over as temporary manager, the decision was made to close the facility and find new homes for 94 people.

"We have given QVC ample time to correct the issues, and DPH staff have been monitoring the facility almost daily. We no longer have confidence that the facility can keep its residents safe. Moving people from their homes on short notice is a serious action that we do not take lightly. But we are convinced that this order is necessary to ensure the safety of all the residents there," said Department of Public Health Commissioner Manisha Juthani.

Quinnipiac Valley is owned by the Genesis Corporation, a national chain. Genesis issued a statement earlier this week that it was cooperating with the temporary manager and helping to relocate residents.

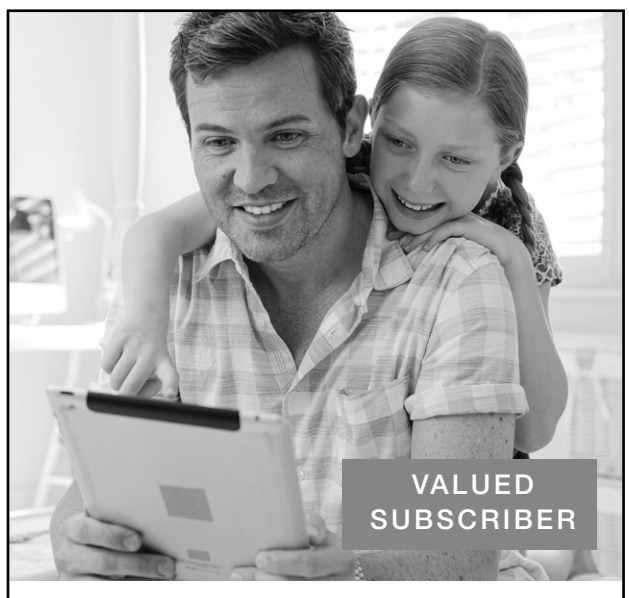
Asked if the health department is investigating any other Genesis facilities, DPH spokesman Christopher Boyle said, "DPH is not able to confirm or discuss any types of impending investigations at other facilities."

State Long-Term Care Ombudswoman Mairead Painter said her office has been working with families and Sachs, the temporary manager, to find new homes for residents, hopefully within proximity to Wallingford.

"We are supporting the residents in as much choice as possible, related to the transfer and where they would like to go to try to remain close to either family or care providers or to stay with a roommate," Painter said. "This isn't something that we really see happening often. And because of the level of concern, we are really prioritizing the safety and well-being of residents."

For Brooks, the ordeal of waiting to see what's next has become excruciating.

"I gave them my three choices, and they were all shut down," Brooks said. "They don't have any beds, which I can understand, since it's 94 people getting thrown out."



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CONNECTICUT

Pedestrian deaths on the rise statewide

Number more than doubled over past 10 years, with at least 16 on Connecticut roads so far in '22

By Dave Altimari and Katy Golvala
CT Mirror

Jesse Robert Pincince allegedly "looked down for a second" to check his phone while driving along North Road in East Windsor on the afternoon of March 6 when he heard a noise against his truck, he told police.

Jaylene Gonzalez, a 14-year-old freshman at Enfield High School, had been walking with a friend along the east side of North Road or Route 140, which doesn't have sidewalks, when "this truck" allegedly came out of nowhere and hit her, according to the East Windsor police report.

The teenage soccer player was a pedestrian killed by a vehicle this year, and the circumstances — a larger vehicle, an allegedly distracted driver, according to police — are becoming more common, experts say.

With at least 16 pedestrian deaths on Connecticut roads as of March 14, according to the Connecticut Transportation Safety Research Center, 2022 could become one of the more deadly years for pedestrians in the state, continuing a troubling trend.

In the past 10 years, the number of pedestrians struck and killed by cars has more than doubled, due in part to a combination of larger and heavier cars, higher speeds and distracted drivers.

"In 2011, there were 26 pedestrians killed on our roads, and last year (2020) we had 65 deaths, and that includes a portion of the spring when hardly anybody was driving," said state Department of Transportation Deputy Commissioner Garrett Eucalitto.

The total number of pedestrian deaths for 2020 includes two children killed in private driveways.

The number of deaths is climbing. This Jan. 1, just minutes into 2022, a 51-year-old Windsor man named Michael Brown was killed while walking on Albany Avenue in Hartford.

DOT officials and advocates for improving roads for biking and walking agree on the causes: People are driving larger and heavier vehicles such as SUVs, which cause more injuries; people are driving those cars faster and more recklessly because, especially during the pandemic, there has been less fear of being pulled over; and many of the state's roads, particularly in urban areas, aren't designed for increased pedestrian traffic.

Eucalitto said research shows that if a pedestrian were hit by a car going 20 mph, nine out of 10 pedestrians would survive. If that car were going 40 mph, only one out of 10 pedestrians would survive.

Wehn that car is an SUV or a truck, much more likely now than 10 years ago, the injuries are likely worse.

"Smaller sedans were designed [so that] if a pedestrian was hit, they would roll up over the hood and roll off the car to the side," Eucalitto said. "Now with the vehicles becoming larger, the pedestrians are going underneath the vehicles, and that is just leading to a huge increase in pedestrian fatalities."

Gonzalez was thrown more than 60 feet by the impact with Pincince's truck. She was taken to the hospital but died within hours.

Pincince is facing multiple charges, including second-degree manslaughter and negligent homicide with a motor vehicle. He is being held in lieu of $200,000 bail.

At last week's Enfield Board of Education meeting, Superintendent Christopher Drezek read a statement from Karla Gonzalez, Jaylene's mother, in which she thanked the community for its outpouring of support, especially since the family hadn't been in Enfield very long.

"She loved playing soccer for Enfield; the team made this place a home for her," the statement said. "I know our family has been quiet through all of this, but we are just having such a hard time."

Car-centric

For advocates, the increase in pedestrian and bicycle deaths is also partially due to state and federal transportation officials' bias toward being "car-centric," spending massive amounts on repaving or widening roads to accommodate more vehicles.

"Historically, they are very car-centric agencies, and particularly in our cities, the way streets are laid out is also car-centric and not really catered to the people who live in them," said Dice Oh, a member of People Friendly Stamford.

An analysis of pedestrian deaths over the past five years shows that most of them occur in urban settings along major roadways or in municipalities with state roads that run through them — such as Route 140 through East Windsor.

Anthony Cherolis, of BikeWalkCT, said it's not only on highways where speeding has increased — drivers are speeding and running red lights on major municipal roads as well, where more pedestrian accidents tend to occur.

"When it is not peak congestion time, even on busy city intersections, cars are still going too fast. It's not uncommon to see cars going 60 mph on main arteries like Albany Avenue or Wethersfield Avenue in Hartford or Whalley Avenue or Dixwell Avenue in New Haven," Cherolis said.

Cherolis said the U.S. needs to catch up with technology that European companies are using to curb speeding, such as installing GPS-enabled speed limitations on cars.

"You see the e-scooters in Hartford and other cities — they are capped at going 15 mph by GPS-enabled speed technology," Cherolis said. "In the EU, they are starting to require that cars have that same technology in place to deal with excessive speeding."

$30 million for 79 towns

The DOT's Community Connectivity Grant Program, designed to "improve the safety and accessibility for bicyclists and pedestrians in urban, suburban and rural community centers," started in 2018, and so far nearly $30 million in funding has gone to 79 cities and towns.

Gov. Ned Lamont announced an additional $12 million for the program last month. The projects already funded include $400,000 to improve the area around Ferry Street and Water Street in New London, where the train station and Block Island Ferry terminal are located; about $395,000 to update the Quinebaug River Trail in Killingly; about $377,000 to improve the bike trails and walkways around the entrance to Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, and $224,000 to put in new sidewalks on Route 1 in Old Saybrook.

One project already completed was the $400,000 realignment of Boxer Square in the west end of Stamford.

"It's an area with the highest rate of non-car ownership in the city. More than 20% of the people who live there do not have cars, so there are people taking public transport or walking to work," Oh said. "Our transportation projects haven't always catered to minorities."

Eucalitto said that DOT officials are aware that future road designs are going to require engineering changes.

"We're looking at something called an integrated safety program, where instead of just looking at one aspect of how a vehicle is traveling — how fast it's going — you're intended to look at everything around that roadway," Eucalitto said. "So from the lighting to the crosswalks and the curbs, we're looking at things like roundabouts and other measures that can slow down traffic on our side roads, not just the interstate highways."

Harder to drive

University of Connecticut urban and community studies professor Mary Donegan said she believes that the Department of Transportation is getting better at addressing the growing population that doesn't drive everywhere.

But she said there are different messages even among state agencies. While DOT is promoting bike lanes and sidewalks, for example, the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is pushing electric cars — which are heavier than internal combustion cars and can accelerate faster, Donegan said.

"How the state is going to spend its money for environmental stability but also social equity on our roadways is a key question," Donegan said. "The state is heading in a better direction in supporting mass transit and better street designs."

But no matter how many sidewalks get installed or bike trails linked, the ultimate question will be how far the state will go to make it harder for people to drive.

"It's easy to add a bike lane but much more difficult to say we are going to make it harder for people to drive, especially in cities where we have people walking or biking in congested areas," Donegan said.

"That would mean doing things like limiting parking or shuttering parking garages or possibly cutting off access for cars to certain streets so that bikers and pedestrians can move freely without worrying about any cars."

CT Mirror staff reporter Ginny Monk contributed to this report. Dave Altimari is a reporter for The Connecticut Mirror (https://ctmirror.org/). Copyright 2022 © The Connecticut Mirror.

Area arts groups fundraisers to aid Ukrainian refugees

By Susan Dunne
Hartford Courant

Several Connecticut arts organizations are holding fundraising events to benefit Ukrainian refugee relief. Here is a list. It is not all-inclusive.

West Hartford Art League, 37 Buena Vista Road, will hold an online fundraising exhibit. Art can be viewed and purchases can be made starting on March 18, but artists can continue to submit work until March 25. Each artwork is $100 and all proceeds will go to Ukrainian National Home to help with shipping of relief items. Artists were asked to create work of sunflowers or with a color palette of blue and yellow, for Ukraine's flag. westhartfordart.org/Ukraine

Silver Circle Gallery, 134 Main St. in Putnam, will host a silent auction and fundraiser, "Art for Ukraine," March 19 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. All proceeds will benefit the Ukraine Crisis Fund through Josiah Venture. More than 100 local artists have created paintings, drawings, photography, sculpture, jewelry, cards and fiber art. silvercirclegallery.com.

Congregation Beth Israel, 701 Farmington Ave., West Hartford will host "Standing With Ukraine: A Benefit for Ukrainian Catholic University Foundation, Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford and Razom for Ukraine" March 21 at 7 p.m. Performers include the Zolotyj Promin Dance Ensemble, clarinetist Alex Kollias, Cantor Stephanie Kupfer, pianist Natalia Ulyanovsky, the Yevshan Ukrainian Vocal Ensemble and others. $25. eventbrite.com/e/standing-with-ukraine-a-benefit-concert-tickets-298258026787.

Buttonwood Tree Performing Arts Center, 605 Main St. in Middletown, will show "Scene through the Lens," 15 photographs by Gaston Gray, the whole month of April. The exhibit is a fundraiser, with the profits split between Ukraine relief and the performing arts center. The opening reception is April 3 from 2 to 4 p.m. buttonwood.org.



Nicole Anker is one of the artists who will sell work through West Hartford Art League's online fundraising exhibit for Ukrainian refugee relief. Artists can continue to submit their works until March 25. **NICOLE ANKER/COURTESY**

Preliminary data shows decline in car thefts for 2021

By Kelan Lyons
CT Mirror

As lawmakers debate how to respond to an uptick in motor vehicle thefts, preliminary figures discussed this week suggest there were fewer cars stolen in 2021 than the previous year.

"We're not necessarily experiencing a continued, substantial growth in auto thefts from last year," Ken Barone, the associate director at the Institute for Municipal and Regional Planning at the University of Connecticut, told members of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee.

The findings support the argument that car thefts increased in 2020 because of societal disruptions caused by the pandemic. As COVID-19 ravaged across Connecticut and the rest of the U.S., it shut down the courts, closed schools and affected policing practices, leading to increases in car thefts in the state and across the nation.

The numbers discussed this week are projections, Barone stressed. Last year's crime stats won't be finalized until later this year, but preliminary figures and projections of data not yet collected suggest there was between a 4% and 10% decrease in the number of car thefts in 2021 compared to 2020.

Barone posited that reductions could be due to the state reopening as COVID-19 numbers stay low, cooperative efforts among local police departments and an increased awareness that people should be locking their cars and not leaving key fobs inside, making them easy targets for theft.

Regardless of what the final figures end up showing, Barone is confident that the data will show a decrease from the bump in car thefts in 2020.

Barone made a similar presentation to the committee last year. One of the key findings in his research involved where those thefts were taking place. Motor vehicle thefts have declined in Connecticut's major cities, more likely to be represented by Democrats, and have increased in surrounding suburban communities, which Republicans are more likely to represent.

Projections for 2021 suggest that more than half of towns with municipal police departments likely saw a decrease in auto thefts compared to 2020. Barone reiterated that there were significantly fewer car thefts in 2021 compared to the peak in 1991, when there were 26,254 such crimes. In 2019, there were 5,964.

"We're nowhere near where we were 20 or 30 years ago, with this crime," said Barone.

Barone said police rarely make an arrest after a car is stolen. The statewide clearance rate in these cases in 2020 was 7.3%, Barone said, "meaning 93% of all auto thefts went unsolved in 2020."

These are particularly challenging crimes to solve, Barone said, and the low clearance rate isn't much different from the historic rate for these crimes, which hovers around 12%.

"The historically low clearance rate is an indication that increased penalties for these offenses is likely going to have little to no impact on the overall offense rate," Barone said. "We need to be able to make arrests of motorists and solve these crimes in order for penalties to potentially act as a deterrent for these crimes."

Also of note: For the past 15 years, children — meaning juveniles, the group publicly blamed for the car theft increase last year — have made up around a third of those arrested for car thefts, he said.

"Now, again, it's still a fairly small number, you're talking about arrest data for less than 10% of all offenses. So make of that which you will," said Barone.

A two-time victim of car theft, state Rep. Pat Callahan, R-New Fairfield, stressed the importance of getting to the root causes of why people steal cars.

"Even though schools were closed, people should still know right from wrong. And just the fact that a car is left open doesn't give anyone carte blanche to open it and see if they can start it and steal everything in it," Callahan said. "It's not key fobs that are causing cars to be stolen. It's people that are out there doing it, and why are they doing it?"

Shutting down boys and girls clubs, after-school programs, and schools — entire communities, really — has profoundly affected life for kids and adults during the pandemic, said Rep. Anthony Nolan, D-New London.

"You saying everybody knows right from wrong, that's right," Nolan told Callahan, "but there's a lot of people in our community are going through things that some of us don't understand."

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LIVING

CELEBRITIES

Kunis, Kutcher exceed relief goal

From news services

Actors Mila Kunis and Ashton Kutcher are "overwhelmed with gratitude" to those who donated to their GoFundMe campaign for Ukraine relief.

The "That '70s Show" co-stars thanked donors Thursday in a video update announcing that they had exceeded their $30 million goal benefiting victims of the Russian invasion of the former Soviet nation that began on Feb. 24.

"We hit our goal!" Kunis said in the video. "Over 65,000 of you donated. We are overwhelmed with gratitude for the support. And while this is far from a solve to the problem, our collective effort will provide a softer landing for so many people as they forge ahead into their future of uncertainty."

"Our work is not done," Kutcher added. "We're going to do everything we can to ensure that the outpouring of love that came from you all as a part of this campaign finds a maximum impact with those in need."

Kunis, who was born in Chernivtsi, Ukraine, and whose family immigrated to the United States in 1991 — and her husband launched the Stand With Ukraine fundraiser on March 3 with plans to match up to $3 million in donations. She said at the time that their philanthropic work is meant to make "an immediate impact on refugee and humanitarian aid efforts."



Ashton Kutcher and Mila Kunis provided an update on their Ukraine relief campaign Thursday. JESSE GRANT/GETTY 2017

Davidson no longer going to space: Pete Davidson has bowed out of a short ride to space on a Jeff Bezos rocket. The "Saturday Night Live" star is no longer able to make the flight, which has been delayed for nearly a week, Bezos' space travel company said Thursday. No other details were provided.

The company announced earlier this week that Davidson would be one of six passengers on Blue Origin's next flight. It had been scheduled for Wednesday, but has now been shifted to March 29 for more testing, the company said.

Taylor among new Blues Hall of Fame members: Five people, an album, five singles and a book have been chosen to join this year's Blues Hall of Fame class. The Blues Foundation, based in Memphis, Tennessee, said the 12 new honorees of the Blues Hall of Fame will be celebrated at a May 4 event.

Singers Lucille Bogan, Little Willie John and Johnnie Taylor are among the hall's newest members.

Songwriter Otis Blackwell — who wrote "Don't Be Cruel" and "All Shook Up" for Elvis Presley, and "Breathless" and "Great Balls of Fire" for Jerry Lee Lewis — is also being honored by the hall.

So is Mary Katherine Aldin, who has spent decades as a DJ and compiler or annotator of blues and folk reissue albums. An album by Bo Diddley and singles by Sonny Boy Williamson II, Bobby "Blue" Bland, Roy Brown, B.B. King and the Baby Face Leroy Trio also will enter the hall. The book "Red River Blues: The Blues Tradition in the Southeast," written by Bruce Bastin, has been named to the hall as well.

March 19 birthdays: Actor Renee Taylor is 89. Actor Ursula Andress is 86. Singer Clarence "Frogman" Henry is 85. Singer Ruth Pointer is 76. Actor Glenn Close is 75. Actor Bruce Willis is 67. Actor Connor Trinneer is 53. Actor Abby Brammell is 43. Actor Craig Lamar Traylor is 33. Actor Philip Daniel Bolden is 27.



ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

Woman's co-workers aren't using legal name

Dear Readers: Every year I step away from my column for two weeks to work on other creative projects. I hope you enjoy these "Best of" columns from 10 years ago. Today's topic is: "What's in a name?"

Dear Amy: I decided not to change my name when I recently married.

It's ridiculous that I am expected to jump through bureaucratic hoops to change my identity.

My decision was based on my career and not wanting to damage the brand I had created in my niche industry.

All of the men in my office (I work with only men) are doing everything possible to sabotage my decision. They introduce me in meetings with my "new" name and even went to the point of getting IT to change my email and sending it out to all our contacts.

My office mates continue to address all of my correspondence and introduce me to clients and new employees using my husband's name. I've informed them multiple times that I'm not changing my name, but they are "concerned" it is insulting to my husband.

— *Shocked*

Dear Shocked: The behavior as you describe it is hazing, bullying, unethical, unprofessional and, because it is gender-based harassment, also illegal.

Consult with a lawyer. You should write a memo to your colleagues, saying, "Despite my repeated requests to be known by my legal name in this office, various colleagues have changed my email address without permission and introduced me by the wrong name in written and oral communication. This needs to stop." Document everything.

According to a 35-year study published in 2009 by the journal "Social Behavior and Personality," about 18% of American women marrying since 2000 have chosen to keep their names. This is hardly outside the norm.

Dear Amy: I was shocked to read the letter from "Shocked," who reported workplace harassment because she didn't take her husband's last name when they married. Really? I hardly know any women who have taken their husband's surnames.

— *Professional Reader*

Dear Reader: I was surprised to see that, according to a 2009 study in the journal Social Behavior and Personality, about 23% of women kept their maiden names in the 1990s, compared with about 18% in the 2000s. The trend of women keeping their names seems to have peaked.

Dear Amy: I got married 18 months ago, and I'm still changing my name. It has been an endless stream of phone calls, letter-writing, forms to fill out, and providing certified copies of my marriage certificate.

Newlyweds, before you change your name, list every card in your wallet. Then list every email address you have; every online shopping account; every organization you belong to; review bank accounts, and list vendors for your bills; then collect every legal document that you have for your home, car, insurance, etc. That is how many companies you need to contact to change your name.

Kudos to the woman keeping her name. I wish I had.

— *Exhausted*

Dear Exhausted: In my life, the husbands may change, but the name stays the same.

Dear Amy: The trend of women keeping their maiden names as their last names may have peaked. In my circle of late-marrying professional women, the trend is Susie Middle-Name/Maiden-Name becomes: Susie Maiden-Name/His Last-Name upon marriage.

— *ARB*

Dear ARB: Statistics don't lie: For women, keeping one's name upon marriage has become rarer in the past decade.

Dear Amy: Something like this happened to me. One of my husband's friends announced, "Well, I'm going to refer to you as 'Susie Jones' because that's what your name should be."

I responded, "Then I'm going to refer to you as 'Big Fat Jerk' because that's what I think your name should be." I only had to call him that once.

— *My Name is My Own*

Dear Own: Fortunately, he sounds like a quick learner.

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MUSIC

Bastille invites listeners to escape in sci-fi concept album

By Ragan Clark
Associated Press

In 2020, Bastille found itself in a unique position. Coming out of its last album and into the pandemic, the English pop rock band not only had one album's worth of songs, but two or three.

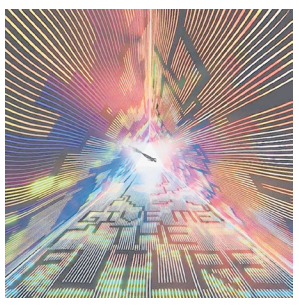
So they enlisted the help of producer and OneRepublic frontman Ryan Tedder to narrow down the tracks. The songs Tedder picked were futuristic leaning and a concept album began to take shape. With techno beats, '80s retro futuristic tones and sweeping production, Bastille's 13-track "Give Me the Future" dives into the world of science-fiction, exploring the way technology can be a tool for escape.

Plug into a different world — be whoever you want to be, go wherever you want to go, leave reality behind.

This is the world Bastille creates on its fourth LP.

"In deciding that it was a sci-fi ... it was really liberating," said frontman Dan Smith. "It's probably the only time we're going to use these kind of sounds, so let us fully go there, have loads of fun with it, push it further than maybe even we're comfortable and hopefully make something that's all the more interesting for it."

The band had some of these ideas floating around before the pandemic, and lockdowns only propelled the themes' relevancy. Writing sessions happened over Zoom and recording was virtual, with keyboardist and background vocalist Kyle Simmons creating a makeshift vocal booth with duvet covers, Chris "Woody" Wood recording drum parts from his shed, and guitarist Will Farquarson learning how to improve his home recording chops.



'Give Me the Future'
Bastille (EMI)

Even when there was studio time, no one was ever in the same room. "I think looking back at our career, it will feel like the most fitting setting for an album like that," said Smith.

As the days in lockdown increased so too did the appeal of escapism.

"Feeling like if this is life/ I'm choosing fiction," sings Smith on the opening track, "Distorted Light Beam." In "Thelma + Louise" he sings, "Days like these you want to get away/ Close our eyes pretend we're miles away."

"We were really drawn to this sort of sci-fi, tech-leaning stuff about escapism, I think just because of the world that we all lived through the last year or so," said Smith.

"Give Me the Future" isn't Bastille's first go at a concept album. Its last one, "Doom Days," was as well. In fact, Smith says he likes the parameters a concept album gives him when he's writing.

"There's always a sense of autobiography in our work, but I always find it much more fun and interesting to write about the things that I'm obsessed with at that point," said Smith. "It becomes a mix of sort of our lives and like a research project."

Beyond the tracks themselves, Smith wanted the visual world of "Give Me the Future" to create a powerful impact. He says that Bastille sees the videos, artwork and songs as an opportunity to build a world around the music.

There's the animated video-game dreamscape of the "Thelma + Louise" video, and in "Distorted Light Beam" there's a VR escape from reality. Smith made his directorial debut with "No Bad Days," a video which sees his character desperate to bring a lover back to life through an android.

"I found myself embarrassingly wanting to show it to people ... which also awkwardly happens to feature quite a lot of me," said Smith. "So that's like forcing someone to sit down and watch 3 minutes of you acting badly."

Though the sci-fi genre often focuses on the dark side of technology, Smith says he wanted to balance the good and the bad on the album. "Whenever talking about topics that are bigger than just my life or your own life, it's important to not be too judgmental and preachy about it because no one really wants to be preached to in music," he said.

He recognizes the benefits of technology, from escape to community to giving people a voice. And he concedes that he'd be the "biggest hypocrite in the world" if his songs passed judgment on phone addiction.

Ultimately, he wanted to create a pop-friendly dance album, evoking the feeling of a party scene in the 1980s and '90s in America. "Hopefully underneath all that," he said, "it's just a load of (expletive) banging tunes."

HOROSCOPES

Tarot.com

Aries (March 21-April 19): Your values are subject to change today. Remember that you don't have to be identical in your expectations or preferred hobbies, even with your friends! It's totally normal to disagree on minor things. If you can't reach a compromise, it isn't the end of the world.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Safeguarding your reputation shouldn't come at the price of your current happiness. It's easy to awe people and have them see you through adoring eyes, but that can sometimes feel confining. Shake things up today and don't worry about shattering someone else's opinion of you.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): The line between fantasy and reality is thinner than normal for you right now, making it easy to lose track of where you're headed and how to get there. You can chart out adventures for yourself, but try to keep your feet on the ground because it'll be easy to miss important details.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Any desire for privacy could get interrupted today, whether you like it or not. A group of friends could start blowing up your phone, begging you to come and play when you'd rather be on your own. Whatever you choose to do, deliver your response kindly.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Even your most important relationships could get relegated to second place today. Other people bring positive experiences your way. Still, a professional task could pop up at the last minute, with a boss demanding you drop everything to do your duty. The right people should understand your situation.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your life has probably been running rather smoothly as of late, but there's always a possibility that things will change on a dime. Your touch of ease to the daily grind will be shaken up. You may have an almost undeniable urge to throw the rule book out the window — that's OK!

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Today could feel a bit like a game of hide and seek. Your attention-seeking energy gets checked, pulling you back into the wings. You don't have to pick one or the other and pigeonhole yourself — you can certainly be more than one thing. The only person you have to please is you.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Sticking close to home might seem like a good idea until people start ignoring do-not-disturb signs and come knocking. Someone could decide you've spent too much time alone and try to drag you out to play! Consider compromising by hosting them at your place.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): The world has been placing more fun opportunities in your path lately, but that doesn't mean today is going to be filled with nothing but joy rides. You've been in higher demand and finding lots of ways to live life to the fullest. However, a hiccup could interrupt this. Fun times may have to wait.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Life is going to be offering you more than one temptation, making it almost impossible for you to keep yourself in check. The biggest problem right now is overdoing anything. While you've got cosmic permission to enjoy yourself, don't go so hard you end up regretting it.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your current desires could be at odds with those of a family member or roommate, bringing something unexpected out from your own four walls. Someone you share space with could force you to hit the brakes on your pleasure cruise, so try to slow down before you hit a wall.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): Life is but a dream, until today's reality smacks you in the face. It's easy to slip on your rose-colored glasses and see life as you would like it to be. Unfortunately, you can't avoid the world forever. Remember that even if your head is in the clouds, keep your feet on the ground.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Associated Press

On March 19, 1931, Nevada Gov. Fred B. Balzar signed a measure legalizing casino gambling.

In 1942, during World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered men between the ages of 45 and 64, inclusive, to register for non-military duty.

In 1977, the series finale of "Mary Tyler Moore" aired.

In 1987, televangelist Jim Bakker resigned as chairman of his ministry organization amid a sex scandal.

In 1995, after a 21-month hiatus, Michael Jordan returned to professional basketball with his former team, the Chicago Bulls.

In 2003, President George W. Bush ordered the start of war against Iraq.

In 2020, President Donald Trump focused attention on chloroquine as a possible coronavirus treatment; the FDA issued a statement saying that there were "no FDA-approved therapeutics" to treat COVID-19.

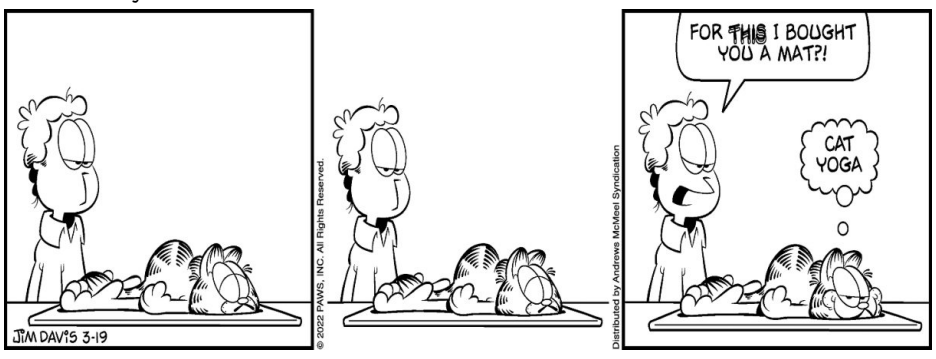
Peanuts By Charles M. Schulz



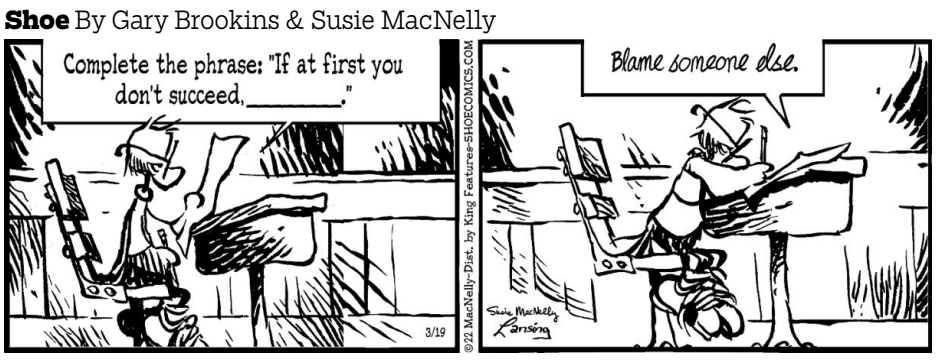
Classic Doonesbury By Garry Trudeau



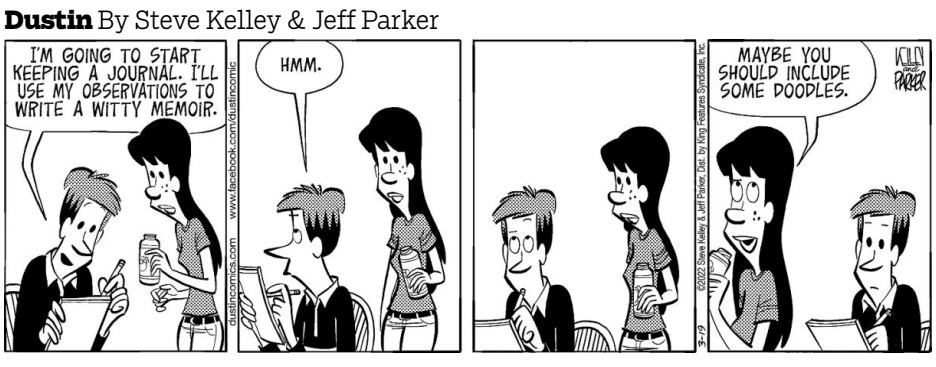
Garfield By Jim Davis



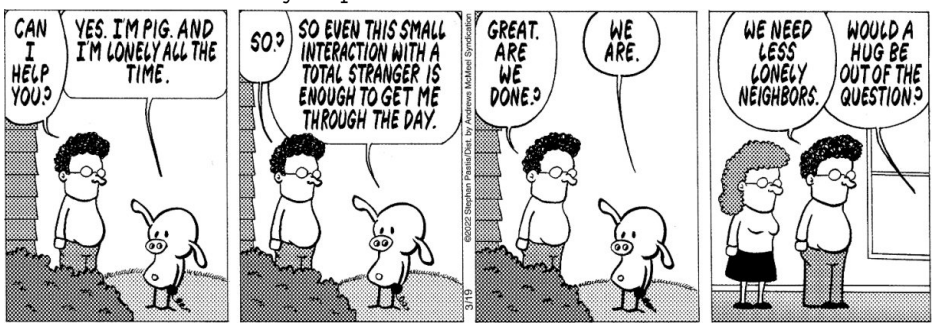
Shoe By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly



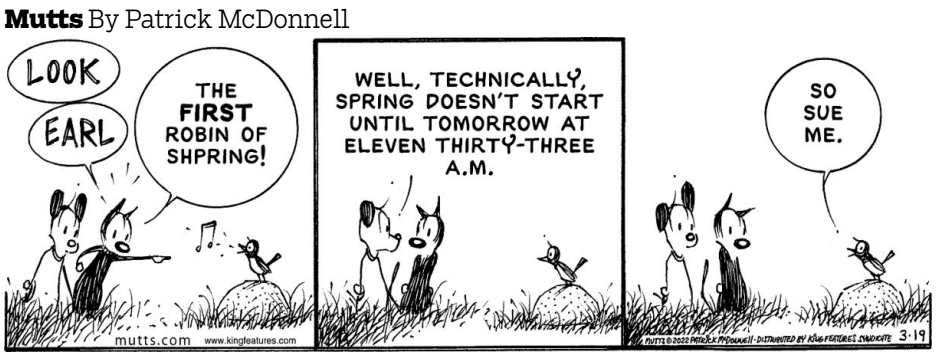
Dustin By Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker



Pearls Before Swine By Stephan Pastis



Mutts By Patrick McDonnell



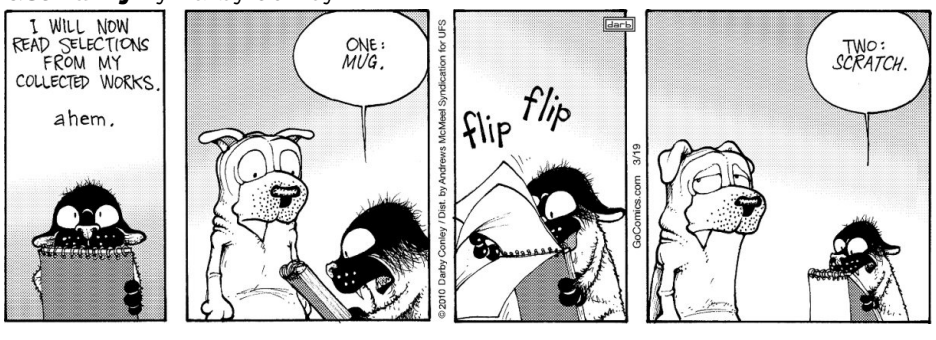
Arctic Circle By Alex Hallatt



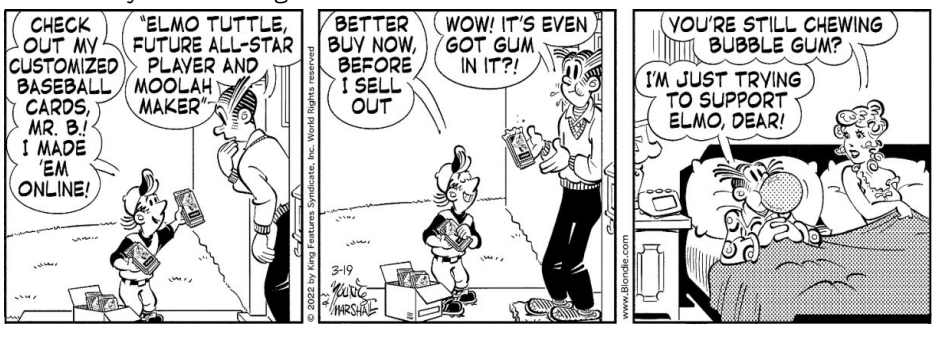
Jump Start By Robb Armstrong



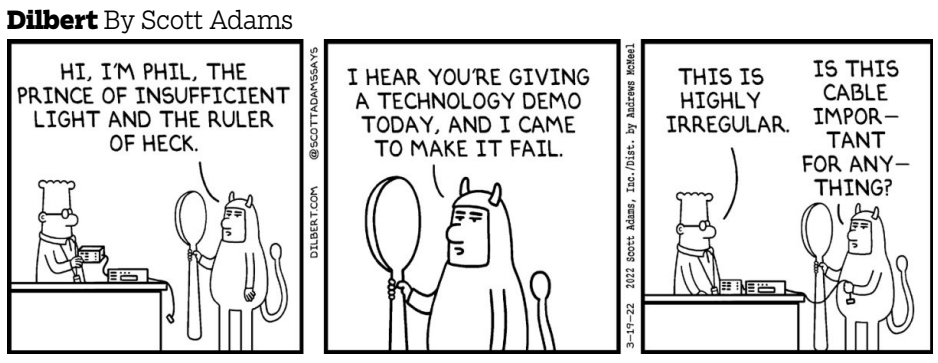
Get Fuzzy By Darby Conley



Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall



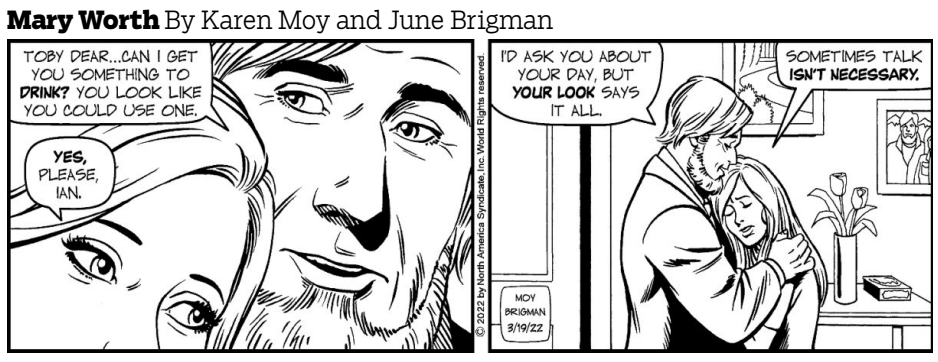
Dilbert By Scott Adams



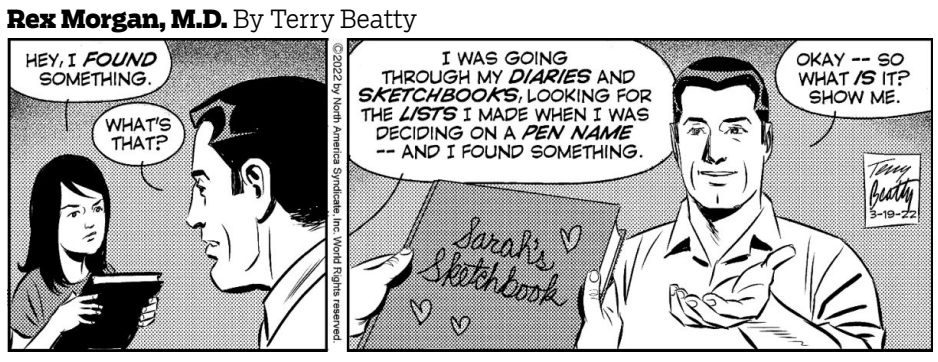
Gil Thorp By Neal Rubin and Frank McLaughlin



Mary Worth By Karen Moy and June Brigman



Rex Morgan, M.D. By Terry Beatty



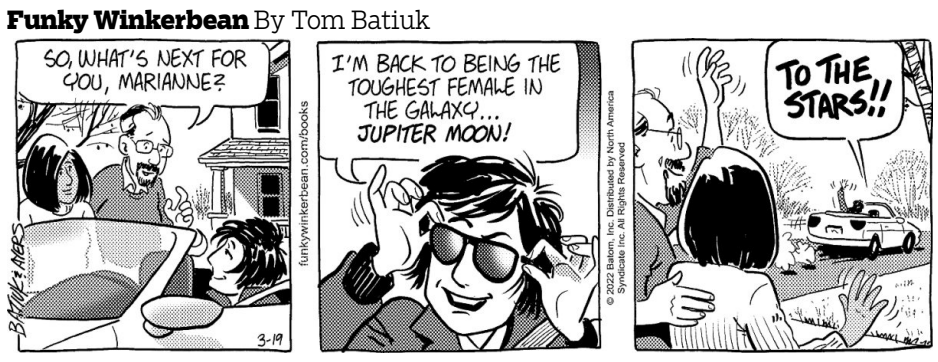
Judge Parker By Woody Wilson and Mike Manley



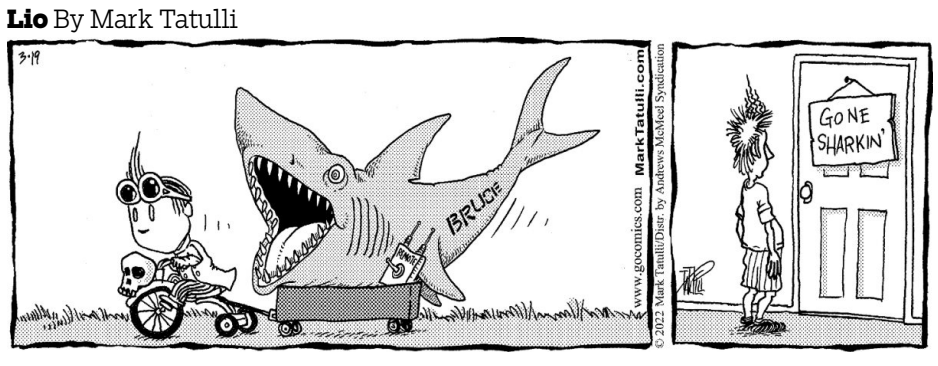
Baldo By Cantu and Castellanos



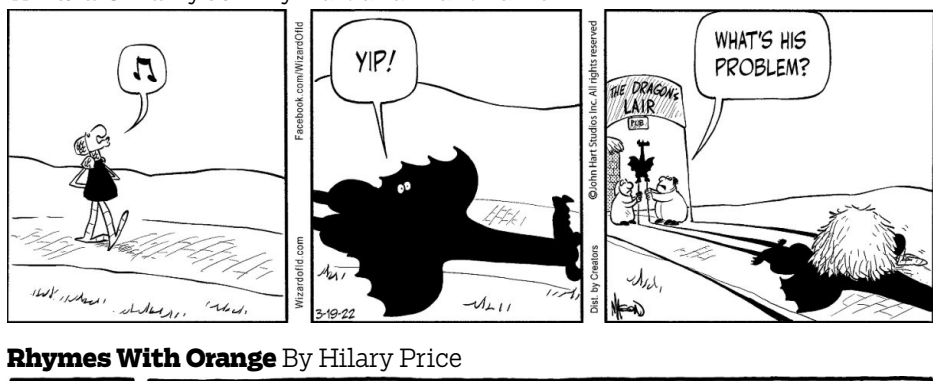
Funky Winkerbean By Tom Batiuk



Lio By Mark Tatulli



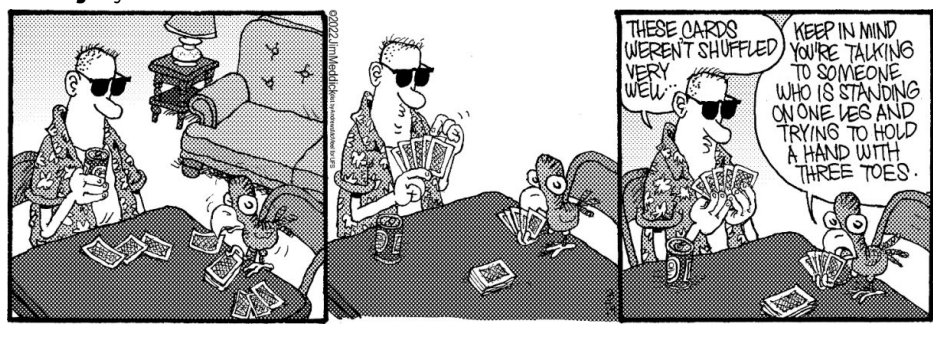
Wizard Of Id By Johnny Hart and Brant Parker



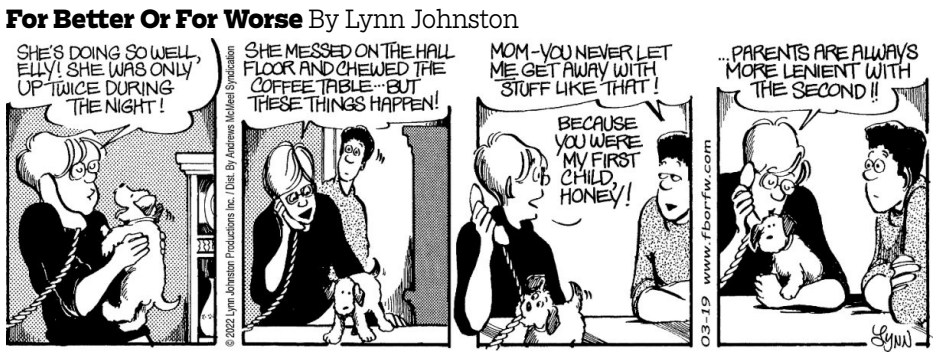
Rhymes With Orange By Hilary Price



Monty By Jim Meddick



For Better Or For Worse By Lynn Johnston



B.C. By Hart



Beetle Bailey by Mort, Greg & Brian Walker



Hi & Lois By Greg and Brian Walker and Chance Browne



Hagar The Horrible By Chris Browne



Non Sequitur By Wiley Miller



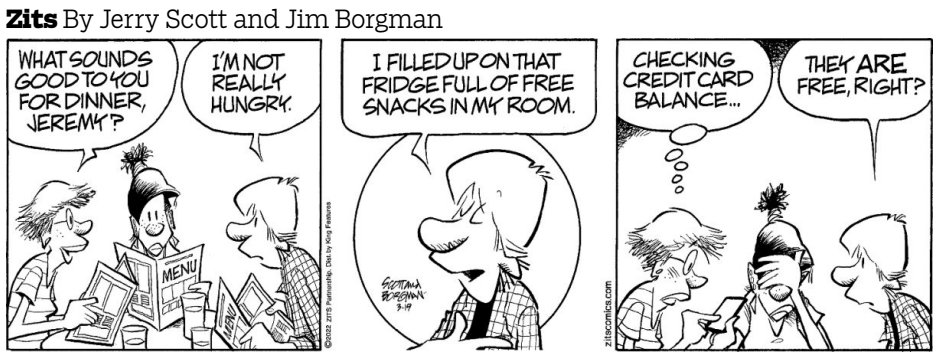
Curtis By Ray Billingsley



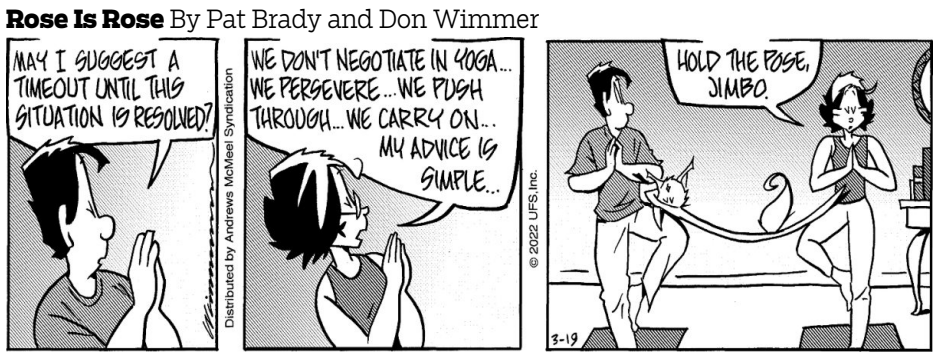
Pickles By Brian Crane



Zits By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman



Rose Is Rose By Pat Brady and Don Wimmer



Mother Goose And Grimm By Mike Peters



CROSSWORD

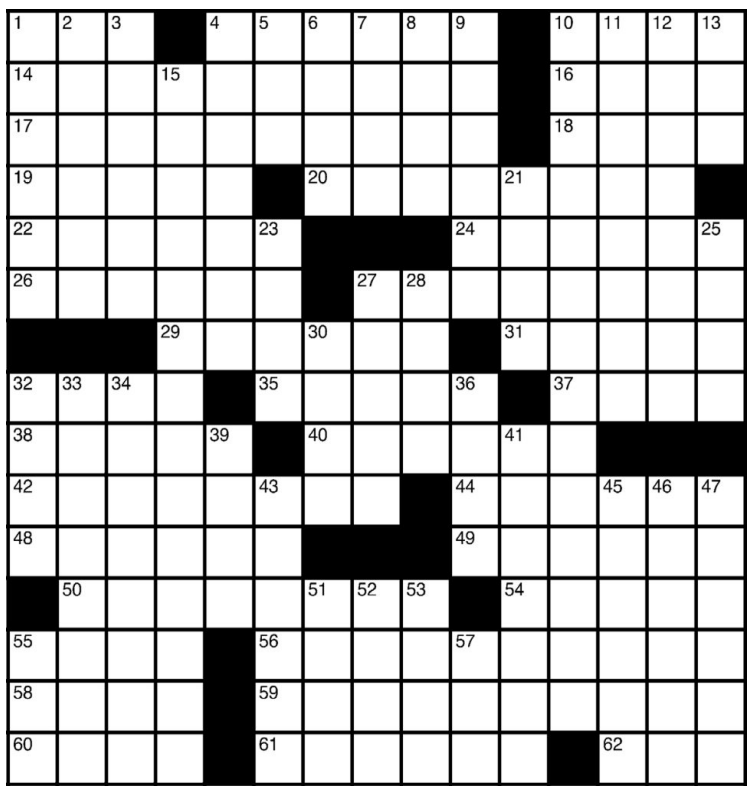
EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

Across

1 Chunk
4 Arizona city within the Coconino National Forest
10 Medical capacity measure
14 It includes the study of roots
16 Go
17 Profile
18 Saharan republic
19 Fireplace accessory
20 Get out of the cooler, with "for"
22 Cautions
24 "For sure!"
26 Save, in a way
27 Walking area in a Depression Era novel
29 Pressed
31 "Tundra" series coolers, e.g.
32 Some four-legged toys, informally
35 Ancient Greek physician
37 Philippic
38 __ horizon: astro-physics boundary
40 Patsy
42 Fortresses
44 Binging
48 One of Willie Mays' MLB career 140
49 It separated from Serbia in 2008
50 Something to check before picking up
54 Relocation figure
55 Cuba libre mixer
56 It features exquisite settings
58 Arabian Sea nation
59 Buttering-up
60 2012 U.S. Open champ Simpson
61 Breakfast pastry
62 Conducted

Down

1 Crèche figure
2 Camden Yards athlete
3 Cheated
4 Like Teller, vis-à-vis Penn
5 Cassowary kin
6 __ dive
7 "The Simpsons" bus driver
8 Quibbles
9 Radical in vinegar
10 Nonspecific and terse response to "Why?"
11 It might be the murder weapon
12 Firing on all cylinders
13 Normal: Abbr.
15 Bad news about options
21 Shampoo ad buzzword
23 Pollution portmanteau
25 Check
27 Paintball mementos
28 Prefix with gram or graph
30 Tweed's caricaturist
32 Fresh
33 Verklempt
34 On-campus area for communications majors
36 Common library area
39 Rock's Jethro __
41 Like some garden figures
43 Bellyached
45 Festive
46 Retaliate for
47 Consumed in large amounts
51 European capital on its own gulf
52 Privy to
53 "Give Your Heart a Break" singer Lovato
55 Strong-arm
57 Brief brief filers



By John Guzzetta — Tribune Content Agency 3/19/22

BRIDGE

BY STEVE BECKER

West dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A 10 3
♥ K 10 9
♦ 9 5 4
♣ A Q J 9

WEST
♠ J 7 6 4
♥ 6 4
♦ A Q 6 2
♣ 7 5 3

EAST
♠ Q 8 5 2
♥ 8 3
♦ J 10 8
♣ K 8 4 2

SOUTH
♠ K 9
♥ A Q J 7 5 2
♦ K 7 3
♣ 10 6

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	1 NT	Pass	4 ♥

Opening lead — six of hearts.

An ounce of prevention

Here is an example of the great lengths to which a declarer must sometimes go to prevent a dangerous opponent from gaining the lead.

Assume you're in four hearts and West leads a trump. It seems normal to draw trump and take a club finesse. In the actual case, East wins with the king and returns the jack of diamonds, and down you go.

Bad luck, you might say, but the fact is that if you played the hand this way, you weren't trying hard enough. A much safer line of play is to win the opening trump lead with dummy's nine, return a low spade and, after East follows low, play the nine!

West wins the trick, as expected, and, let's say, returns a club. In line with your plan to prevent East — the dangerous opponent — from gaining the lead, you go up with the ace, lead a spade to your king and cross to dummy with a trump. When both defenders follow suit, the contract becomes an absolute certainty. You cash the ace of spades, discarding the ten of clubs, then lead the queen of clubs from dummy, not caring where the king is actually located.

You plan to discard a diamond if East follows low on the club queen, thereby guaranteeing 10 tricks even if West has the king of clubs. And if East covers the queen with the king, which he might do in the actual case, you're still on solid ground.

You ruff the king, return to dummy with a trump and discard two diamonds on dummy's J-9 of clubs to finish with an overtrick. In the actual layout, the unusual care you took at trick two to prevent East from ever gaining the lead nets you 650 points rather than the minus 100 you would suffer if you relied strictly on the club finesse.

JUMBLE

BY DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GAMIE

KITCH

TAEEUQ

CAPTUE



Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print your answer here: ( ) ( )

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ARROW VENOM TRUANT IMPACT
Answer: Keeping their kitty happy was within the couple's — "PURRVIEW"

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TODAY'S SUDOKU

		5						
			5					1
8		9	1		7			
	6	8		3			7	
	2		9	4	6		1	
	3			7		5	6	
			7		3	2		8
7					8			
						9		

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit **www.sudoku.org.uk**

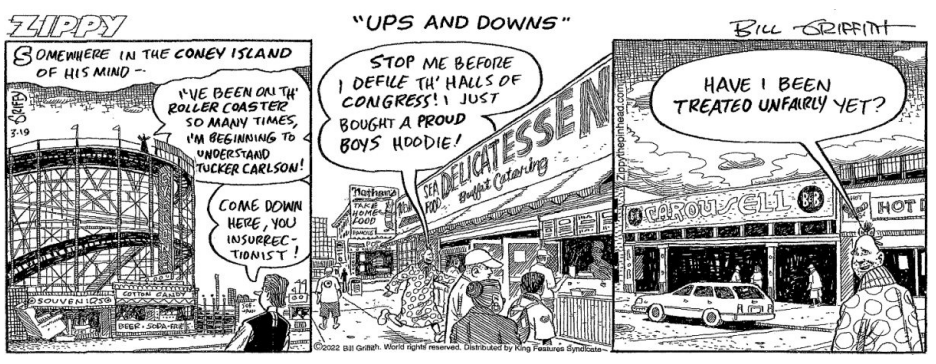
ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

8	9	1	3	5	6	2	7	4
6	2	4	8	9	7	3	5	1
5	3	7	4	1	2	6	9	8
3	7	9	2	4	1	5	8	6
2	1	6	5	7	8	9	4	3
4	5	8	6	3	9	7	1	2
7	8	3	9	2	4	1	6	5
9	4	2	1	6	5	8	3	7
1	6	5	7	8	3	4	2	9

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS CROSSWORD PUZZLE

D	A	K	A	R	■	R	U	M	B	A	■	B	B	C
A	L	A	M	O	■	E	N	D	O	R	■	E	R	A
D	A	L	I	M	A	D	I	S	O	N	■	S	I	R
■	■	A	S	A	H	I	■	■	M	O	B	I	L	E
B	A	M	■	S	O	A	K	S	■	■	I	D	L	E
E	X	A	M	■	K	L	E	E	P	I	G	E	O	N
G	E	T	A	B	■	■	P	E	R	M	A	■	■	■
■	S	A	R	G	E	N	T	P	E	P	P	E	R	■
■	■	■	T	O	R	A	H	■	■	S	E	V	E	N
H	A	R	I	N	G	B	O	N	E	■	S	I	N	G
O	V	E	N	■	■	S	T	O	N	Y	■	L	O	O
B	E	L	I	E	F	■	■	G	U	E	S	T	■	■
B	E	E	■	K	A	H	L	O	F	L	O	W	E	R
I	N	N	■	E	I	E	I	O	■	P	R	I	M	O
T	O	T	■	S	T	E	E	D	■	S	E	N	S	E

ZIPPY — "UPS AND DOWNS" — BILL GRIFFITH



Hartford Courant
SPORTS
COURANT.COM/SPORTS

Motoring Inside

UCONN MEN'S BASKETBALL

After another tough early exit, to-do list comes into focus

By Shreyas Laddha
Hartford Courant

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The UConn men's basketball team was confident it would walk out of the NCAA Tournament with at least one win.

With 11 returning players, this season was a big opportunity at redemption after last season ended in the NCAA first round with a loss to No. 10 seed Maryland in Indianapolis

Unfortunately, the Huskies' problems prevalent throughout this season reappeared at the worst possible time, leading to yet another early exit. The fifth-seeded Huskies fell to No. 12 New Mexico State, 70-63, in the first round on Thursday at KeyBank Arena.

"It's crushing," said UConn coach Dan Hurley. "I mean, come on. It has nothing to do with where we play and the history and tradition. It's about just that group and how much they've done and how great a group of guys they are.

"Just how hard they work and how much effort. Just what they've put into

Turn to Huskies, Page 4



UConn's Adama Sanogo reacts to a play against New Mexico State in a first-round NCAA Tournament game Thursday in Buffalo, New York. The Huskies lost 70-63.
ELSA/GETTY

NCAA TOURNAMENT PURDUE 78, YALE 56

Bulldogs outmuscled by Big Ten's Purdue

By Jay Cohen
Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Jaden Ivey dashed up the court, and Zach Edey towered over the lane.

Purdue's speed and size were just too much for Yale.

Ivey raced his way to 22 points and Edey controlled the action inside, helping the Boilermakers shut down the Bulldogs for a 78-56 victory in the first round of the NCAA Tournament on Friday.

Ivey, one of the fastest players in college basketball, went 3 for 6 from 3-point range and 7 for 9 at the free-throw line in 27 minutes. The 7-foot-4 Edey made the most of his size advantage against the Ivy League champions, finishing with 16 points and nine rebounds in 19 minutes.

"On the rebounds, I felt like I could just kind of get it over them," Edey said.

No kidding. Yale coach James Jones inserted 6-8 EJ Jarvis into his starting lineup, looking for a bigger body to help with Purdue's size. But it had little effect.

Turn to Yale, Page 4

Inside

After upsets ruled Day 1, top seeds mostly dominate Friday's action. **Page 5**

UCONN MEN'S HOCKEY

Huskies stun on way to title game

UConn hockey upsets Northeastern 4-1, will play for Hockey East crown

Staff report

BOSTON — The UConn men's hockey program is heading to a place it has never been before: The Hockey East championship game.

The Huskies peppered Northeastern goalie Devon Levi with 37 shots and rolled to a 4-1 semifinal win on Friday at the TD Garden. UConn's Darion Hanson, meanwhile, made 24 saves.

"I'm not at all shocked that we showed up and we weren't star struck in this building," UConn coach Mike Cavanaugh said. "We showed video of Mark Messier talking about winning the Stanley Cup [with the Rangers in 1994], when nobody wanted to talk about it. We've talked openly about all our goals, and we're trying to meet all these challenges head on."

Up next for UConn (20-15-0, 15-10-0) is a meeting with either UMass or UMass Lowell, opponents in Friday's late semifinal, in Saturday's championship game with that winner earning an automatic bid into the NCAA Tournament.

Vladislav Firstov got UConn going with a goal at 11:39 of the first off assists from Nick Capone and Chase Bradley. Aidan McDonough tied things for Northeastern, the conference regular-season champion, with a power-play goal at 14:13.

UConn's Roman Kinal scored what proved to be the game-winner, with the help of another Bradley assist, beating Levi at 13:47 of the second. Ryan Tverberg added an insurance goal at 4:32 of the third period, and Marc Gatcomb iced it with

Turn to Hockey, Page 4

Inside

Capsule previews of all of the weekend's high school basketball championships. **Page 2**

UCONN MEN'S BASKETBALL



UConn's Paige Bueckers smiles during practice for an NCAA Tournament first-round game Friday in Storrs. UConn plays on Saturday.
PHOTOS BY JESSICA HILL/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

WORDS TO THE WISE

UConn embarks on a back-to-normal tourney with more experience and maturity after last season's Final Four loss

By Dom Amore
Hartford Courant

STORRS — A year ago, in the bitter aftermath of the loss to Arizona in the NCAA Women's Final Four, UConn women's basketball Geno Auriemma put a finger on the problem.

"We have a very immature group," he told the reporters in San Antonio. "Not just young, a very immature group. When we're high and when we're on top of the world, we think everything's great. And when things don't go our way, there's a poutiness about us, there's a feeling sorry for ourselves about us."

Now the No. 2-seeded Huskies are out of the bubble and about to embark on a new redemption tour, a close-to-normal NCAA Tournament experience that will begin on campus with a first-round game against No. 15 seed Mercer on Saturday at 1 p.m. at Gampel Pavilion.



UConn head coach Geno Auriemma, center, watches Caroline Ducharme (33) during practice on Friday.

"We're more mature just by default," said senior Christyn Williams, UConn's top scorer, before practice Friday. "We had a lot of freshmen last year, so just having a year of experience under their belts, you just become more mature. But definitely we're more mature this year just because of everything we've had to go through. I feel like we've handled it very well. And it was hard at times, but we've always fought through it."

How much the Huskies have grown, and grown up, probably won't be evident in the early rounds of the tournament. The true tests will come if they make it to the Sweet 16 and Elite Eight in the Bridgeport Region and the Final Four in Minneapolis, which would be their 14th trip in a row.

"At this time of the year, you're always hoping that your team has

Turn to UConn, Page 4

Up next

UConn vs. Mercer
1 p.m., ABC

MORE COVERAGE
Fairfield falls to Texas in first round.
courant.com/sports

Did you know?

Compared to other industrialized nations, the U.S. spends the most on health care but ranks near the bottom in life expectancy.

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SPORTS

UP NEXT

UConn WBB: NCAA First Round vs. Mercer, Saturday, 1 p.m.; NCAA Second Round (if necessary) vs. Florida/Central Florida, Sunday/Monday, time TBD; NCAA Sweet 16 (if necessary) vs. TBD, March 26/27, time TBD
Celtics: at Nuggets, Sunday, 8 p.m.; at Thunder, Monday, 8 p.m.; Jazz, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Knicks: Jazz, Sunday, 7:30 p.m.; Hawks, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.; at Hornets, Wednesday, 7 p.m.
Nets: Jazz, Monday, 7:30 p.m.; at Grizzlies, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.; at Heat, March 26, 8 p.m.
UConn hockey: Hockey East Final (if necessary) vs. UMass Lowell/UMass, Saturday, 7 p.m.
Bruins: at Canadiens, Monday, 7 p.m.; Lightning, Thursday, 7 p.m.; Islanders, March 26, 12:30 p.m.
Rangers: at Lightning, Saturday, 8 p.m.; at Hurricanes, Sunday, 6 p.m.; at Devils, Tuesday, 7 p.m.
Wolf Pack: at Belleville, Saturday, 7 p.m.; Springfield, Wednesday, 7 p.m.; Springfield, Friday, 7 p.m.

TV/RADIO

AUTO RACING
11 a.m.: NASCAR Camping World Truck Series Fr8 208, Qualifying. (Live) FS1
11:30 a.m.: NASCAR Xfinity Racing Series Nalley Cars 250, Qualifying. (Live) FS1
12:30 p.m.: NASCAR Xfinity Racing Series Nalley Cars 250, Qualifying. (Live) FS1
2:30 p.m.: NASCAR Camping World Truck Series Fr8 208. (Live) FS1
3:30 p.m.: IMSA Weathertech Sportscar Championship Twelve Hours of Sebring. (Taped) USA
5 p.m.: NASCAR Xfinity Racing Series Nalley Cars 250. (Live) FS1
BASEBALL
1 p.m.: Blue Jays at Phillies. (Live) SPRTNET
1 p.m.: Red Sox at Twins. (Live) NESN
BASKETBALL
11:30 a.m.: NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament First Round: Kansas State vs Washington State. (Live) ESPN2
12 p.m.: NCAA Basketball Tournament Second Round: Teams TBA. (Live) CBS
12 p.m.: NIT Basketball Tournament. (Live) ESPN
1 p.m.: NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament First Round: Mercer at Connecticut. (Live) ABC
1:30 p.m.: NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament First Round: Charlotte at Indiana. (Live) ESPN2
2 p.m.: NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament First Round: TBA at NC State. (Live) ESPN
2:30 p.m.: NCAA Basketball Tournament Second Round: Teams TBA. (Live) CBS
2:30 p.m.: NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament First Round: TBA vs Ohio State. (Live) ESPNU
3 p.m.: NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament First Round: Buffalo at Tennessee. (Live) ABC
3:30 p.m.: NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament First Round: American at Michigan. (Live) ESPN2
4 p.m.: NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament First Round: Princeton vs Kentucky. (Live) ESPN
5 p.m.: NCAA Basketball Tournament Second Round: Teams TBA. (Live) CBS
5 p.m.: NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament First Round: Jackson State at LSU. (Live) ESPNU
5:30 p.m.: NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament First Round: Belmont vs Oregon. (Live) ESPN2
6 p.m.: NCAA Division III Championship: Teams TBA. (Live) CBSSN
6 p.m.: NCAA Basketball Tournament Second Round: Teams TBA. (Live) TNT
7 p.m.: Dallas Mavericks at Charlotte Hornets. (Live) NBA
7 p.m.: NCAA Basketball Tournament Second Round: Teams TBA. (Live) TBS
7:30 p.m.: NCAA Basketball Tournament Second Round: Teams TBA. (Live) CBS
7:30 p.m.: NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament First Round: Massachusetts vs Notre Dame. (Live) ESPN2
8:30 p.m.: NCAA Basketball Tournament Second Round: Teams TBA. (Live) TNT
9:30 p.m.: NCAA Basketball Tournament Second Round: Teams TBA. (Live) TBS
10 p.m.: NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament First Round: UNLV at Arizona. (Live) ESPN2
10 p.m.: NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament First Round: IUPUI at Oklahoma. (Live) ESPNU
BOXING
10 p.m.: Top Rank Boxing: Edgar Berlanga vs. Steve Rolls. (Live) ESPN
GOLF
6:30 a.m.: DP World Tour Golf Steyn City Championship, Third Round. (Live) GOLF
1 p.m.: Valspar Championship, Third Round. (Live) GOLF
3 p.m.: Valspar Championship, Third Round. (Live) NBC
HOCKEY
2 p.m.: Chicago Blackhawks at Minnesota Wild. (Live) NHL
4 p.m.: New Jersey Devils at Edmonton Oilers. (Live) SPRTNET
7 p.m.: Ottawa Senators at Montreal Canadiens. (Live) SPRTNET
7 p.m.: College: Hockey East Final: UConn/Northeastern vs. UMass Lowell/UMass. (Live), NESN
8 p.m.: Rangers at Lightning. (Live), ABC, ESPN+
8:30 p.m.: College Hockey (Live) CBSSN
10 p.m.: Flames at Canucks. (Live) SPRTNET
SOCCER
8:30 a.m.: Premier League Soccer Aston Villa vs Arsenal. (Live) USA
9 a.m.: Italian Serie B Soccer Pa.m.: vs Lecce. (Live) FSP
5 p.m.: South American Women's U 17 Championship Final Stage: Paraguay vs Chile. (Live) FSP
7:30 p.m.: South American Women's U 17 Championship Final Stage: Colombia vs Brazil. (Live) FSP
8:55 p.m.: Futbol Mexicano Primera Division Tigres UANL vs. Monterrey. (Live) UNI

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Boys, girls championship preview

By Lori Riley
Hartford Courant

After a two-year absence, the boys and girls CIAC state high school basketball championships return to Mohegan Sun Arena this weekend, with five games Saturday starting at 10 a.m.

Bristol Central will meet up with Northwest Catholic at 8:15 p.m. in the marquee boys matchup for the Division II title. On the girls side, East Hartford will try Sunday to win its first title when it faces Wilton in the Class LL final at 6:15 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased at https://am.ticketmaster.com/mohegan/CIAC or at the Mohegan Sun box office. The games will be livestreamed at nfhsnetwork.com/associations/ciac and require a subscription.

Here is a look at this weekend's games:

BOYS

Division I

No. 2 Notre Dame-West Haven (25-1) vs. No. 8 East Catholic (19-6), Sunday, 8:15 p.m.
A note: East Catholic, the defending Division I champion from 2019, has played a difficult schedule for a team with no seniors, but the Eagles came together in a playoff run. Notre Dame hasn't been to a championship game since 2003.

Division II

No. 1 Bristol Central (27-0) vs. No. 2 Northwest Catholic (25-2), Saturday, 8:15 p.m.
A note: Bristol Central, led by 7-foot-2 Donovan Clingan, is on a 42-game win streak after going unbeaten the last two seasons. The Rams beat Northwest Catholic in the CCC championship game, 63-56, behind 45 points from Clingan. Northwest Catholic is led by senior guard Matt Curtis, who had 38 points in the CCC final.

Division III

No. 1 Kolbe Cathedral-Bridgeport (20-2) vs. No. 3 Hand-Madison (22-4), Saturday, 3 p.m.
A note: Hand advanced to its first state final since 1974 with a 76-65 semifinal win over St. Bernard. Hand coach Jimmy Economopoulos played in the Class L state championship game in 2008 at Lyman Hall, but he has never coached in a final. Kolbe last won a title in 2018.

Division IV

No. 4 Granby (21-5) vs. No. 6 Bloomfield (20-5), Sunday, 12:30 p.m.
A note: Freshman guard Jaysean Williams leads the Warhawks in scoring (20.6 ppg) but has plenty of help in junior forward Howard Simpson (16.9) and senior forward Lake McLean (11.9). Granby, which last went to the state final in 2019 but lost to New Canaan, upset top-seeded Cromwell in the semifinal, 59-48. Bloomfield beat Granby 73-64 on Jan. 12.

Division V

No. 8 Windham (20-4) vs. No. 2 SMSA (22-4), Saturday, 10 a.m.
A note: Windham hasn't advanced to a state tournament final since 1941, when the Whippets won the Class L title, 25-24, over Bristol. Junior Travis Mangual, who averages 26.8 points, 4.8 assists and 2.6 steals, hit a buzzer-beating 3-pointer for a 53-50 victory over Windsor Locks in the semifinal. SMSA is sending a boys team to the championship game for the first time. The Tigers outlasted Capital Prep in two overtimes in the semifinal.

GIRLS

Class LL

No. 12 Wilton (17-7) vs. No. 2 East Hartford (21-2), Sunday, 6:15 p.m.
A note: Led by Seton Hall-bound Shailyn Pinkney, East Hartford is in its first state final. The Hornets handed Newington, a Class L finalist, its only two losses this season, with the second coming on a buzzer-beater in the CCC championship game. Wilton beat top-seeded Enfield 48-37 in the semifinals.

Class L

No. 1 Newington vs. No. 3 Notre Dame-Fairfield, Saturday, 6:15 p.m.
A note: Newington is making its first appearance in the state final since 1993, when the Nor'easters lost to Southington in Class LL. Newington won its semifinal game 35-34 over E.O. Smith on a free throw with 3.2 seconds left by senior Karissa Zocco. The Nor'easters are led by UMass-bound senior guard Lilly Ferguson, who averages 16.2 points and 6.2 rebounds. Notre Dame-Fairfield's coach Maria Conlon, the former UConn point guard, has played in the state title game three times (with Seymour, winning in 1997 and '98 and losing in 2000) but has never coached in a state championship game.

Class MM

No. 1 Sacred Heart-Hamden (25-1) vs. No. 2 St. Joseph-Trumbull (25-2), Sunday, 3 p.m.
A note: Sacred Heart made news in January when it beat Lyman Hall 92-4, and amid an outcry about sportsmanship its coach Jason Kirck was suspended for one game. Sacred Heart, which beat St. Paul 50-18 in the semifinal, hasn't advanced to the final since 1994. Senior Izzy Casucci had 29 points to lead St. Joseph over Hand 68-54 in the semifinal game.

Class M

No. 1 Holy Cross (26-0) vs. No. 2 Bacon Academy (23-3), Sunday, 10 a.m.
A note: The Crusaders come into the Class M final as the only unbeaten girls team in the state and have won 42 straight. Their last championship was in 2007. Bacon Academy had a string of finals appearances (2009, 2012, 2013, 2017), last winning a Class L title in 2012 when legendary coach Dave Shea was coaching. Now his son John has taken over with Dave as an assistant.

Class S

No. 1 Thomaston (23-3) vs. No. 3 Coventry (19-6), Saturday, 12:30 p.m.
A note: Thomaston was a regular in the Class S final from 2013-17, winning twice (2014, 2015). Coventry's last appearance was 2009, when it lost to Old Lyme. The Patriots last won a title in 1988.

Lori Riley can be reached at lriley@courant.com.

BASEBALL ROUNDUP

Yankees trade Voit to Padres for pitching prospect

BRADENTON — As Luke Voit stepped out of the clubhouse at LECOM Park, the fans waiting for him on the boardwalk above broke out one last cry of "LUUUUUUUUKKKKK-KEEEE." Yankees fans had immediately embraced Voit's big bat and big personality when he arrived four years ago, and unlike most players Voit embraced them. So they were disappointed to see him leaving before the Bombers' first game of spring training with his gear bag packed in his pickup truck and heading on to a new team.

For Voit, it was a relief.

The Yankees dealt the popular first baseman to the Padres Friday morning for Justin Lange, a 20-year-old minor league right-hander who was a supplemental round pick in the 2020 draft. Voit knew he became expendable when the Yankees re-signed first baseman Anthony Rizzo on Tuesday night. He had been working out with teammates he knew he would sooner or later be leaving.

Taking it all in: Anthony Volpe isn't playing it cool. The Yankees 20-year-old top prospect is excited running out onto the field with big leaguers and it's obvious from his smile. His smooth fielding and even his one at-bat (a strikeout looking) made it clear he's not far away from belonging with them.

But, for now, the Yankees' top pick in the 2019 draft out of New Jersey is just enjoying the moment and trying to soak up as much as he can.

"I think it's an awesome learning experience. .... I think just being in the dugout, the first couple innings when I wasn't playing, just trying to be a sponge, opening my ears as often as I can," Volpe said after the Bombers 4-3 loss to the Pirates at LECOM Park. "And I think I learned a lot today and I hope to learn a lot from here on out."

Good first impression: Isiah Kiner-Falefa couldn't sleep Thursday night. It might be just a spring training game, but the Yankees' new shortstop of the here and now was getting ready to make his real first impression.

"The moment I put that jersey on I had goosebumps today," said Kiner-Falefa, who grew up a Yankee fan in Hawaii. "I couldn't sleep last night, as well ... nerve-wracking for me because it's like my first day, first impression and going out on the field and hearing our fans ... gave me a confidence that I never felt before. So I'm just glad to be here."

Kiner-Falefa did just fine. He went 2-for-3 with a double.

Red flag for German: Domingo German, who missed all of 2020 serving a suspension under the joint domestic violence policy, is dealing with right "shoulder impingement syndrome," and will miss the start of the season.

"He hasn't thrown in a couple months to where he's just starting his throwing program now. So I think he's good but it's obvious that when you're just starting, when you haven't thrown in probably a couple of months and you're just beginning a throwing program. Do the math on it's a pretty big hill," Boone said.

— New York Daily News

Red Sox

Weeks after Chris Sale suffered the stress fracture in his right rib cage and days after the Red Sox disclosed it, the injury remains mysterious. Pitchers are almost never described as having stress fractures in their ribs, which makes the cause, treatment, and longer-term outlook a bit of a puzzle.

"I know it's an unusual injury," said Red Sox pitching coach Dave Bush. "There's not a lot they can do for treatment except just to let it heal. So I think it's a matter of waiting for that to happen. That process is different than some other injuries where you can actively rehab them.

"Because it's an unusual injury, I don't know what the plan is going to be."

Shaw added: The Red Sox re-signed first baseman Travis Shaw on a minor league deal.

Shaw, 31, who played for the Red Sox in 2015-16, then returned last August when they claimed him off waivers from the Brewers, made 48 plate appearances for the Sox last year as a first baseman and pinch hitter.

Shaw posted a .238/.319/.524 with three homers and also had a ninth-inning pinch-hit single in Game 4 of the Division Series against the Rays, contributing to a walkoff rally that clinched the series.

— Boston Globe

SATURDAY'S HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

BOYS BASKETBALL

CIAC State Tournaments
Division **II**—Final at Mohegan Sun Arena
No. 2Northwest Catholic (25-2) vs. No. 1Bristol Central (27-0), 8:15p.m.
Division **III**—Final at Mohegan Sun Arena
No. 3Hand (22-4) vs. No. 1Kolbe Cathedral (22-3), 3p.m.
Division **V**—Final at Mohegan Sun Arena
No. 8Windham (20-7) vs. No. 2SMSA (22-4), 10 a.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

CIAC State Tournaments
Class **L**—Final at Mohegan Sun Arena
No. 3Notre Dame-Fairfield (22-3) vs. No. 1 Newington (25-2), 6:15p.m.
Class **S**—Final at Mohegan Sun Arena
No. 3Coventry (19-6) vs. No. 1Thomaston (21-4), 12:30p.m.

BOYS SWIMMING

CIAC State Open Championship at Cornerstone Aquatic, West Hartford, 3:15p.m.

SUNDAY'S HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

BOYS BASKETBALL

CIAC State Tournaments
Division **I**—Final at Mohegan Sun Arena
No. 8East Catholic (19-6) vs. No. 2Notre Dame-West Haven (25-1), 8:15p.m.
Division **IV**—Final at Mohegan Sun Arena
No. 6Bloomfield (20-5) vs. No. 4Granby (21-5), 12:30p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

CIAC State Tournaments
Class **LL**—Final at Mohegan Sun Arena
No. 12Wilton (17-8) vs. No. 2East Hartford (25-2), 6:15p.m.
Class **MM**—Final at Mohegan Sun Arena
No. 2St. Joseph (24-2) vs. No. 1SHA (25-1), 3p.m.
Class **M**—Final at Mohegan Sun Arena
No. 2Bacon Academy (23-3) vs. No. 1Holy Cross (26-0), 10a.m.

MONDAY'S HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

BOYS HOCKEY

CIAC State Tournaments
Division **II**—Final at People's United Center, Quinnipiac, Hamden
No. 3Wethersfield (17-6-2) vs. No. 1North Haven (23-2), 6:30p.m.

TUESDAY'S HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

BOYS HOCKEY

CIAC State Tournaments
Division **I**—Final People's United Center, Quinnipiac, Hamden
No. 6Darien (15-8-1) vs. No. 1Notre Dame-West Haven (19-4), 6:30p.m.

THURSDAY'S LATE COLLEGE RESULTS

BASEBALL

WESLEYAN 17, MACALESTER 16

WOMEN'S TENNIS

WESLEYAN 9, TRINITY 0

FRIDAY'S COLLEGE RESULTS

MEN'S BASKETBALL

NCAA Div. I **Tourney**—First Round (Milwaukee, Wisc.)
YALE VS. PURDUE, LATE

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

WNIT—First Round
QUINNIPIAC AT RHODE ISLAND, 6 P.M.
NCAA Div. I **Tourney**—First Round
FAIRFIELD AT TEXAS, LATE

MEN'S HOCKEY

Hockey East **Tourney**—Semifinal (TD Garden, Boston, Mass.)
UCONN VS. NORTHEASTERN, LATE
ECAC **Tourney**—Semifinal (Lake Placid, N.Y.)
QUINNIPIAC VS. COLGATE, LATE

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

NCAA Div. I **Tourney**—Frozen Four (University Park, Pa.)
YALE VS. OHIO STATE, LATE

BASEBALL

HARTFORD AT NJIT, LATE
WESLEYAN VS. MACALESTER, LATE
WESLEYAN VS. GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS, LATE
EASTERN VS. WISCONSIN-STOUT, LATE
YALE AT CALIFORNIA BAPTIST, LATE
QUINNIPIAC AT VCU, LATE
SACRED HEART AT ST. JOHN'S, LATE
FAIRFIELD VS. NORTH DAKOTA STATE, LATE

SOFTBALL

UCONN AT GEORGETOWN, LATE
MANHATTAN AT HARTFORD (2), LATE
FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON AT CENTRAL (2), LATE
WESLEYAN VS. KNOX, LATE
WESLEYAN VS. LORAS, LATE
EASTERN VS. MCDANIEL, LATE
EASTERN VS. RHODES, LATE
HARVARD AT YALE (2), LATE
BRYANT AT SACRED HEART, LATE
FAIRFIELD AT RUTGERS, LATE

SATURDAY'S COLLEGE SCHEDULE

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

NCAA Div. I **Tourney**—First Round Mercer at UConn, 1p.m.

MEN'S HOCKEY

Hockey East **Tourney**—Final (TD Garden, Boston, Mass.)
UConn/Northeastern vs. UMass Lowell/UMass, 4p.m.

BASEBALL

Eastern vs. Bethel (Fort Myers, Fla.), 9a.m.
Central vs. Dartmouth (Auburndale, Fla.), 11a.m.
Fairfield vs. North Dakota State (2, Port Charlotte, Fla.), 11a.m.
Sacred Heart at St. John's, 1p.m.
Hartford at NJIT, 2p.m.
Quinnipiac at VCU, 2p.m.
Central vs. Bradley (Auburndale, Fla.), 3p.m.
Yale at California Baptist, 8p.m.
UConn at UC-San Diego, 9p.m.

SOFTBALL

Fairfield vs. Holy Cross (Piscataway, N.J.), 9a.m.
Quinnipiac at UMBC, 10a.m.
Fairfield vs. Stony Brook (Piscataway, N.J.), 11:15a.m.
UConn at Georgetown, 11:30a.m.
Quinnipiac vs. Lafayette (Baltimore, Md.), noon

MEN'S LACROSSE

Yale at Cornell, noon
Quinnipiac at Manhattan, noon
Hobart at Sacred Heart, noon
Middlebury at Trinity, 1p.m.
Wesleyan at Colby, 1p.m.
Eastern at Emerson, 1p.m.
Lasell at St. Joseph, 3p.m.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Trinity at Middlebury, noon
Colby at Wesleyan, noon
Eastern at Lynn, noon
St. Joseph's (Maine) at St. Joseph, 1p.m.
Quinnipiac at Binghamton, 1p.m.
Sacred Heart at Fairfield, 5p.m.

MEN'S TENNIS

Denison at Wesleyan, 1p.m.

SUNDAY'S COLLEGE SCHEDULE

BASEBALL

Hartford at NJIT, 1p.m.
Trinity vs. Johns Hopkins (Auburndale, Fla.), 1 p.m.
Quinnipiac at VCU, 1p.m.
Sacred Heart at St. John's, 1p.m.
Yale at California Baptist, 3p.m.
UConn at UC-San Diego, 5p.m.

SOFTBALL

Quinnipiac at UMBC, 10a.m.
UConn at Georgetown, noon
Harvard at Yale, 12:30p.m.
Fairleigh Dickinson at Central, 1p.m.
Bryant at Sacred Heart (2), 1p.m.
Trinity vs. Wellesley (Clermont, Fla.), 1:30p.m.
Quinnipiac vs. Towson (Baltimore, Md.), 2p.m.
Trinity vs. MIT (Clermont, Fla.), 4p.m.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Yale vs. Notre Dame (Naples, Fla.), noon
Endicott at Wesleyan, 2p.m.

HOCKEY EAST

MEN'S

FRIDAY'S SCHEDULE

Hockey East **Tourney**—Semifinals (TD Garden, Boston, Mass.)
UCONN VS. NORTHEASTERN, LATE
UMASS LOWELL VS. UMASS, LATE

SATURDAY'S SCHEDULE

Hockey East **Tourney**—Final (TD Garden, Boston, Mass.)
UConn/Northeastern winner vs. UMass Lowell/UMass winner, 7p.m.

SCOREBOARD

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Philadelphia	43	26	.623	—
Boston	42	28	.600	1 ½
Toronto	39	30	.565	4
Brooklyn	36	34	.514	7 ½
New York	29	40	.420	14

SOUTHEAST	W	L	PCT	GB
Miami	46	24	.657	—
Charlotte	35	35	.500	11
Atlanta	34	35	.493	11 ½
Washington	29	39	.426	16
Orlando	18	53	.254	28 ½

CENTRAL	W	L	PCT	GB
Milwaukee	44	26	.629	—
Chicago	41	28	.594	2 ½
Cleveland	39	30	.565	4 ½
Indiana	23	47	.329	21
Detroit	19	51	.271	25

WESTERN CONFERENCE

SOUTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Memphis	48	22	.686	—
Dallas	43	27	.614	5
New Orleans	28	41	.406	19 ½
San Antonio	27	43	.386	21
Houston	17	52	.246	30 ½

NORTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Utah	43	26	.623	—
Denver	42	28	.600	1 ½
Minnesota	41	30	.577	3
Portland	26	42	.382	16 ½
Oklahoma City	20	49	.290	23

PACIFIC	W	L	PCT	GB
x-Phoenix	56	14	.800	—
Golden State	47	23	.671	9
L.A. Clippers	36	36	.500	21
L.A. Lakers	29	40	.420	26 ½
Sacramento	25	46	.352	31 ½

x-clinched playoff spot

FRIDAY'S RESULTS
Philadelphia 111, Dallas 101
Denver at Cleveland, late
L.A. Lakers at Toronto, late
Memphis at Atlanta, late
Portland at Brooklyn, late
Washington at New York, late
Indiana at Houston, late
Oklahoma City at Miami, late
New Orleans at San Antonio, late
L.A. Clippers at Utah, late
Boston at Sacramento, late
Chicago at Phoenix, late

SATURDAY'S GAMES
Milwaukee at Minnesota, 5p.m.
Dallas at Charlotte, 7p.m.
Detroit at Cleveland, 8p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Washington, 8p.m.

SUNDAY'S GAMES
Memphis at Houston, 3:30p.m.
Portland at Indiana, 3:30p.m.
New Orleans at Atlanta, 6p.m.
Oklahoma City at Orlando, 6p.m.
Phoenix at Sacramento, 6p.m.
Utah at New York, 7:30p.m.
Boston at Denver, 8p.m.
San Antonio at Golden State, 8:30p.m.
Toronto at Philadelphia, 8:30p.m.

MONDAY'S GAMES
New Orleans at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Cleveland, 7p.m.
Portland at Detroit, 7p.m.
Miami at Philadelphia, 7p.m.
Utah at Brooklyn, 7:30p.m.
Toronto at Chicago, 8p.m.
Washington at Houston, 8p.m.
Boston at Oklahoma City, 8p.m.
Minnesota at Dallas, 8:30p.m.

TUESDAY'S GAMES
Golden State at Orlando, 7p.m.
Atlanta at New York, 7:30p.m.
Chicago at Milwaukee, 8p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Denver, 10p.m.

THURSDAY'S RESULT
Detroit 134, Orlando 120

NBA INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

Through Thursday

SCORING	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Embiid, PHI	56	527	547	1677	29.9
GAnttknmpo, MIL	59	600	492	1758	29.8
James, LAL	51	565	231	1506	29.5
Doncic, DAL	53	525	290	1494	28.2
Young, ATL	64	596	414	1795	28.0
DeRozan, CHI	65	663	446	1814	27.9
Morant, MEM	55	562	304	1514	27.5
Tatum, BOS	66	609	356	1765	26.7
Jokic, DEN	63	623	303	1641	26.0
Booker, PHO	59	558	246	1523	25.8
Mitchell, UTA	57	526	212	1466	25.7
Curry, GS	64	535	275	1630	25.5
Towns, MIN	64	560	344	1594	24.9
LaVine, CHI	56	490	247	1387	24.8
G-Alexander, OKC	54	455	320	1314	24.3
Fox, SAC	59	516	261	1367	23.2
Brown, BOS	55	462	201	1260	22.9
Ingram, NO	50	421	226	1140	22.8
Siakam, TOR	56	472	227	1234	22.0

REBOUNDS	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Gobert, UTA	54	197	603	800	14.81
Jokic, DEN	63	173	694	867	13.76
Capela, ATL	61	232	500	732	12.0
GAntoknmpo, MIL	59	116	563	679	11.51
Vucevic, CHI	61	117	582	699	11.46
Valanciunas, NO	63	193	525	718	11.4
Embiid, PHI	56	118	519	637	11.38
Nurkic, POR	56	167	452	619	11.05
Allen, CLE	56	192	410	602	10.75
Carter, ORL	59	132	480	612	10.37
Wood, HOU	62	109	520	629	10.15
Ayton, PHO	49	124	363	487	9.94

ASSISTS	G	AST	AVG
Paul, PHO	58	619	10.7
Young, ATL	64	607	9.5
Murray, SA	61	573	9.4
Doncic, DAL	53	456	8.6
Garland, CLE	55	457	8.3
Jokic, DEN	63	508	8.1
Lowry, MIA	53	414	7.8
Ball, CHA	63	464	7.4
Haliburton, SAC	51	379	7.4
Russell, MIN	56	399	7.1

TENNIS

BNP PARIBAS OPEN

At Indian Wells Tennis Garden, Indian Wells, Calif., hardcourt outdoors
MEN'S SINGLES, QUARTERFINALS
#7Andrey Rublev d.
#33Grigor Dimitrov, 7-5, 6-2.
#20Taylor Fritz d.
Miomir Kecmanovic, 7-6(5), 3-6, 6-1.

WOMEN'S SINGLES, SEMIFINALS
#3 Iga Swiatek vs.
#24Simona Halep, late
#5 Paula Badosa vs.
#6 Maria Sakkari, late

ODDS

COLLEGE BASKETBALL FAVORITE	LINE	SATURDAY UNDERDOG
Texas A&M	4½	Oregon
Baylor	5½	North Carolina
Kansas	12	Creighton
Wake Forest	5½	VCU
Tennessee	5½	Michigan
Providence	2½	Richmond
UCLA	3	Saint Mary's
Murray St.	9	Saint Peter's
Arkansas	6½	New Mexico St.
BYU	5½	Northern Iowa
Gonzaga	10	Memphis

NBA FAVORITE	LINE	O/U	SATURDAY UNDERDOG
Milwaukee	2½	(242½)	at Minnesota
Dallas	1	(225½)	at Charlotte
at Washington	1½	(230½)	LA Lakers
at Cleveland	8½	(216)	Detroit

NHL FAVORITE	LINE	SATURDAY UNDERDOG	Line
at Minnesota	-250	Chicago	+210
at N.Y. Islanders	-115	Dallas	-105
at Edmonton	-220	New Jersey	+180
at Las Vegas	-140	Los Angeles	+120
Pittsburgh	-250	at Arizona	+210
St. Louis	-170	at Columbus	+150
Toronto	-125	at Nashville	+105
at Montreal	-140	Ottawa	+120
at Tampa Bay	-200	N.Y. Rangers	+165
Calgary	-140	at Vancouver	+120
at Seattle	-115	Detroit	+105

For the latest odds, go to FanDuel Sportsbook, https://sportsbook.fanduel.com/

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA
Florida	61	41	14	6	88	251	180
Tampa Bay	60	39	15	6	84	204	172
Toronto	61	39	17	5	83	226	183
Boston	61	37	19	5	79	184	165
Detroit	61	25	29	7	57	176	228
Ottawa	61	22	34	5	49	161	199
Buffalo	61	20	33	8	48	163	218
Montreal	61	16	36	9	41	153	234
METRO	**GP**	**W**	**L**	**OT**	**PTS**	**GF**	**GA**
Carolina	60	41	14	5	87	200	142
Pittsburgh	62	37	16	9	83	201	166
N.Y. Rangers	61	38	18	5	81	185	159
Washington	62	34	18	10	78	208	174
Columbus	62	31	28	3	65	205	230
N.Y. Islanders	58	25	24	9	59	157	162
Philadelphia	61	19	31	11	49	154	213
New Jersey	61	22	34	5	49	185	220

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA
Colorado	61	43	13	5	91	236	170
St. Louis	60	34	17	9	77	213	168
Minnesota	59	35	20	4	74	222	195
Nashville	61	35	22	4	74	198	172
Dallas	59	33	23	3	69	174	176
Winnipeg	61	28	23	10	66	189	190
Chicago	61	22	30	9	53	162	210
Arizona	60	20	36	4	44	159	216
PACIFIC	**GP**	**W**	**L**	**OT**	**PTS**	**GF**	**GA**
Calgary	60	37	16	7	81	210	146
Los Angeles	63	34	21	8	76	181	176
Edmonton	61	34	23	4	72	206	193
Vegas	63	33	26	4	70	200	193
Vancouver	62	30	25	7	67	179	178
Anaheim	63	27	25	11	65	183	201
San Jose	60	26	26	8	60	156	188
Seattle	62	18	38	6	42	160	224

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

FRIDAY'S RESULTS
Ottawa 3, Philadelphia 1
Washington at Carolina, late
Boston at Winnipeg, late
Buffalo at Calgary, late
Florida at Anaheim, late
Colorado at San Jose, late

SATURDAY'S GAMES
Chicago at Minnesota, 2p.m.
Dallas at N.Y. Islanders, 2p.m.
New Jersey at Edmonton, 3p.m.
Los Angeles at Vegas, 4p.m.
Pittsburgh at Arizona, 5p.m.
St. Louis at Columbus, 5p.m.
Ottawa at Montreal, 7p.m.
Toronto at Nashville, 7p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Tampa Bay, 8p.m.
Calgary at Vancouver, 10p.m.
Detroit at Seattle, 10p.m.

SUNDAY'S GAMES
N.Y. Islanders at Philadelphia, 2p.m.
Dallas at Washington, 5p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Carolina, 6p.m.
Arizona at San Jose, 7p.m.
Winnipeg at Chicago, 7p.m.
Buffalo at Vancouver, 10p.m.

MONDAY'S GAMES
Boston at Montreal, 7p.m.
Vegas at Minnesota, 8p.m.
Edmonton at Colorado, 9:30p.m.
Nashville at Anaheim, 10p.m.

THURSDAY'S RESULTS
N.Y. Islanders 2, N.Y. Rangers 1
Toronto 3, Carolina 2
Washington 7, Columbus 2
Dallas 4, Montreal 3, OT
Philadelphia 5, Nashville 4
Pittsburgh 3, St. Louis 2(SO)
Edmonton 6, Buffalo 1
Los Angeles 3, San Jose 0
Detroit 1, Vancouver 0
Vegas 5, Florida 3

SCORING LEADERS

Through Thursday

Player, Team	GP	G	A	PTS
McDavid, Edm	60	34	53	87
Huberdeau, Fla	61	19	65	84
Draisaitl, Edm	61	40	44	84
Gaudreau, Cal	60	27	52	79
Matthews, Tor	56	45	32	77
Kaprizov, Min	58	32	43	75
Ovechkin, Was	60	38	36	74
Kadri, Col	58	22	51	73
Miller, Van	60	24	49	73
Josi, Nash	59	17	55	72
Connor, Win	61	38	34	72

SOCCER

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER

EASTERN	W	L	T	PT	GF	GA
Columbus	2	0	1	7	9	4
Philadelphia	2	0	1	7	5	2
N.Y. Red Bulls	2	1	0	6	7	3
D.C. United	2	1	0	6	4	2
Atlanta	2	1	0	6	5	5
Chicago	1	0	2	5	2	0
New York City FC	1	1	1	4	4	2
Orlando City	1	1	1	4	3	2
New England	1	1	1	4	5	5
Cincinnati	1	2	0	3	2	7
Toronto FC	0	2	1	1	3	7
Inter Miami CF	0	2	1	1	1	7
Charlotte FC	0	3	0	0	1	6
CF Montréal	0	3	0	0	2	8
WESTERN	**W**	**L**	**T**	**PT**	**GF**	**GA**
Los Angeles FC	2	0	1	7	6	1
Real Salt Lake	2	0	1	7	4	2
Austin FC	2	1	0	6	10	2
Colorado	2	1	0	6	5	3
LA Galaxy	2	1	0	6	4	3
Portland	1	0	2	5	4	3
Minnesota United	1	0	2	5	3	2
FC Dallas	1	1	1	4	3	2
Houston	1	1	1	4	2	2
Nashville	1	1	1	4	2	3
Seattle	1	2	0	3	3	4
Kansas City	1	2	0	3	2	5
San Jose	0	2	1	1	4	8
Vancouver	0	2	1	1	1	6

Three points for win, one point for tie.

SATURDAY'S MATCHES
Miami at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Philadelphia at New York City FC, 1 p.m.
D.C. United at Toronto FC, 3 p.m.
Orlando City at LA Galaxy, 3:30 p.m.
CF Montréal at Atlanta, 4 p.m.
Sporting Kansas City at Chicago, 6 p.m.
New England at Charlotte FC, 7 p.m.
San Jose at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Portland at FC Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Colorado at Houston, 8:30 p.m.
Nashville at Real Salt Lake, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY'S MATCHES
Columbus at New York, 2 p.m.
Seattle at Austin FC, 4:30 p.m.
Vancouver at Los Angeles FC, 10 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 26
Cincinnati at Charlotte FC, 5 p.m.
Real Salt Lake at Sporting KC, 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 27
Orlando City at Portland, 4 p.m.

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

CLUB	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PT
Man City	29	22	4	3	68	18	70
Liverpool	29	21	6	2	75	20	69
Chelsea	28	17	8	3	57	19	59
Arsenal	27	16	3	8	43	31	51
Man United	29	14	8	7	48	40	50
West Ham	29	14	6	9	48	36	48
Tottenham	28	15	3	10	44	35	48
Wolverhampton	30	14	4	12	31	26	46
Aston Villa	28	11	3	14	41	39	36
Southampton	29	8	11	10	36	45	35
Crystal Palace	29	7	13	9	39	38	34
Leicester	26	9	6	11	40	45	33
Brighton	29	7	12	10	26	36	33
Newcastle	29	7	10	12	32	49	31
Brentford	29	8	6	15	32	45	30
Leeds	30	7	8	15	34	67	29
Everton	27	7	4	16	29	47	25
Watford	29	6	4	19	29	55	22
Burnley	27	3	12	12	22	38	21
Norwich	29	4	5	20	18	63	17

FRIDAY'S RESULTS
Leeds 3, Wolverhampton 2
Burnley vs. Southampton, ppd.
Man City vs. Brighton, ppd.

SATURDAY'S MATCHES
Aston Villa vs. Arsenal, 8:30a.m.
Liverpool vs. Man United, ppd.
Newcastle vs. Crystal Palace, ppd.

SUNDAY'S MATCHES
Leicester vs. Brentford, 10a.m.
Tottenham vs. West Ham, 12:30p.m.
Watford vs. Everton, ppd.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

MEN'S NIT

SATURDAY'S SECOND ROUND
Oregon at Texas A&M, noon
VCU at Walke Forest, 4p.m.
Northern Iowa at BYU, 9p.m.

SUNDAY'S SECOND ROUND
Florida at Xavier, 1p.m.
Wshington State at SMU, 3p.m.
Dayton at Vanderbilt, 3p.m.
Virginia at North Texas, 6p.m.
St. Bonaventure at Oklahoma, 8p.m.

MEN'S CBI

SATURDAY'S FIRST ROUND
Drake vs. Purdue Fort Wayne, noon
Stephen F. Austin vs.
NC Asheville, 2:30 p.m.
Middle Tennessee vs. Cal Baptist, 5p.m.
Ohio vs. Rice, 7:30p.m.

SUNDAY'S FIRST ROUND
VMI vs. NC Wilmington, noon
Fla. Atlantic vs. No. Colorado, 2:30p.m.
NC Greensboro vs. Boston U., 5p.m.
Abilene Christian vs. Troy, 7:30p.m.

THE BASKETBALL CLASSIC

SATURDAY'S FIRST ROUND
Western Illinois at UTEP, 3p.m.
New Orleans at Portland, 10p.m.

THURSDAY'S FIRST ROUND
Fresno State 83, E. Washington 74

WOMEN'S NIT

FRIDAY'S FIRST ROUND
Quinnipiac 61, Rhode Island 50
VCU 56, Stony Brook 48
Old Dominion 72, Towson 66
Toledo 61, Houston Baptist 51
Bucknell 71, Fordham 64
UC Irvine at UCLA, late
Colorado State at Portland, late

THURSDAY'S FIRST ROUND
Drexel 54, Norfolk State 47
Tulane 80, Jacksonville State 36
Wake Forest 71, Akron 59
Houston 63, Louisiana Tech 52
Boston College 69, Maine 44
Northern Iowa 75, Kansas City 58
Alabama 72, Troy 79
Seton Hall 67, Fairleigh Dickinson 45
Tulsa 75, North Texas 62
Drake 83, Missouri 78
Vanderbilt 73, Murray State 47
Minnesota 73, Green Bay 65
Tennessee Tech 73, SMU 62
Air Force 64, San Francisco 60
South Dakota State 87, Ohio 57
Wyoming 76, Idaho State 73 (OT)
Middle Tennessee 86, Wofford 56
San Diego 76, Cal Baptist 67
Oregon State 70, Long Beach State 59

SUNDAY'S SECOND ROUND
Tennessee Tech vs. Houston, 3p.m.
Minnesota at South Dakota St., 4p.m.
Tulsa at Wyoming, 4p.m.
San Diego at New Mexico, 4p.m.

MONDAY'S SECOND ROUND
Northern Iowa at Drake, 7p.m.
Wake Forest at Middle Tenn., 7:30p.m.
Alabama at Tulane, 7:30p.m.
Liberty at Vanderbilt, 8p.m.
Purdue at Marquette, 8p.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL INVITATIONAL

FRIDAY'S QUARTERFINALS
Bowling Green 82, Furman 61
Saint Mary's 77, Austin Peay 69
Nevada 76, Davidson 63
Cleveland St. 73, Northeastern 60

SATURDAY'S SEMIFINALS
Bowling Green vs. Saint Mary's, 2:30 p.m.
Nevada vs. Cleveland St., 7:30 p.m.
SATURDAY'S CONSOLATION SEMIS
Furman vs. Austin Peay, 12p.m.
Davidson vs. Northeastern, 5 p.m.

AUTO RACING

NASCAR CUP SERIES LEADERS

MANUFACTURERS STANDINGS

RK	MAKE	PTS	PB	W
1	Ford	143	—	2
2	Chevrolet	142	-1	2
3	Toyota	129	-14	0

DRIVER POINT STANDINGS

DRIVER	W	T5	T10	PTS
Joey Logano	0	1	2	136
Kyle Busch	0	1	3	132
Chase Elliott	0	0	2	131
Kyle Larson	1	2	2	126
Chase Briscoe	1	2	2	126
Aric Almirola	0	1	3	122
Ryan Blaney	0	2	2	118
Austin Cindric	1	1	1	116
Tyler Reddick	0	1	2	114
Kevin Harvick	0	0	2	111
Alex Bowman	1	1	1	109
Kurt Busch	0	1	2	109
Martin Truex, Jr.	0	0	1	109
Ross Chastain	0	2	2	101
William Byron	0	1	1	98
Austin Dillon	0	1	1	97
Bubba Wallace	0	1	1	93
Brad Keselowski	0	0	1	91
Erik Jones	0	1	1	86
Ty Dillon	0	0	0	85
Chris Buescher	0	0	1	83
Daniel Suarez	0	1	2	81
Ricky Stenhouse, Jr.	0	0	1	78
Cole Custer	0	0	0	73
Justin Haley	0	0	0	68
Michael McDowell	0	0	1	65
Denny Hamlin	0	0	0	62
Todd Gilliland	0	0	0	62
Corey LaJoie	0	0	0	55
Christopher Bell	0	0	1	54
Harrison Burton	0	0	0	42
Cody Ware	0	0	0	42
B.J. McLeod	0	0	0	38
David Ragan	0	0	1	29
Garrett Smithley	0	0	0	28
Jacques Villeneuve	0	0	0	15
Greg Biffle	0	0	0	4

NASCAR CUP FASTEST LAPS

Points standing positions, percentage and total fastest laps:

DRIVER	POS.	PCT.	LAPS
1. Chandler Smith	1	13.00	21
2. Kyle Busch	41	18.30	15
3. John H. Nemechek	10	5.60	9
4. Stewart Friesen	5	4.30	7
5. Christian Eckes	11	4.30	7
6. Zane Smith	12	4.30	7
7. Carson Hocevar	7	4.30	7
8. Timmy Hill	13	3.70	6
9. Blaine Perkins	38	3.70	6
10. Matt Crafton	9	3.10	5

LAPS LED

DRIVER	EV	LAPS	LED
Ryan Blaney	4	817	190
Chase Briscoe	4	848	121
Tyler Reddick	4	936	90
Ross Chastain	4	846	83
Kyle Busch	4	987	77
Brad Keselowski	4	983	70
Chase Elliott	4	985	62
Kyle Larson	4	903	58
William Byron	4	799	37
Christopher Bell	4	830	32

AVERAGE FINISH POSITION

DRIVER	EV	AvST	AvFN
Aric Almirola	4	23.5	7.3
Kyle Busch	4	15.3	7.8
David Ragan	1	34.0	8.0
Kurt Busch	4	24.8	11.3
Joey Logano	4	10.8	12.0
Chase Briscoe	4	10.8	13.8
Kevin Harvick	4	23.8	13.8
Chase Elliott	4	10.8	14.0
Austin Cindric	4	4.3	14.0
Daniel Hemric	3	18.0	14.3
Austin Dillon	4	18.8	14.8

LAPS IN THE TOP 15	PCT.	LAPS
1. Joey Logano	85.4	843
2. Kyle Larson	79.9	789
3. Alex Bowman	76.7	757
4. William Byron	76.5	755
5. Ryan Blaney	76.3	753
6. Chase Elliott	74.4	734
7. Kevin Harvick	69.4	685
8. Martin Truex Jr	67.7	668
9. Tyler Reddick	66.1	652
10. Ross Chastain	65.3	645

CUP UPCOMING SCHEDULE

March 20: Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500, Hampton, Ga.
March 27: Echopark Texas Grand Prix, Austin, Texas
April 3: Toyota Owners 400, Richmond, Va.
April 9: Blue-Emu Maximum Pain Relief 400, Ridgeway, Va.
April 17: Food City Dirt Race, Bristol, Tenn.
April 24: GEICO 500, Talladega, Ala.

BASEBALL

SPRING TRAINING

AMERICAN LEAGUE	W	L	PCT.
Boston	2	0	1.000
Chicago	2	0	1.000
Cleveland	1	0	1.000
Oakland	1	0	1.000
Toronto	1	0	1.000
Detroit	0	0	.000
Kansas City	0	0	.000
Texas	0	0	.000
Baltimore	0	1	.000
Houston	0	1	.000
Los Angeles	0	1	.000
New York	0	1	.000
Seattle	0	1	.000
Tampa Bay	0	1	.000
Minnesota	0	2	.000
NATIONAL LEAGUE	**W**	**L**	**PCT.**
Colorado	2	0	1.000
Atlanta	1	0	1.000
Miami	1	0	1.000
Pittsburgh	1	0	1.000
St. Louis	1	0	1.000
San Diego	1	0	1.000
Los Angeles	0	0	.000
Milwaukee	0	0	.000
New York	0	0	.000
Philadelphia	0	0	.000
San Francisco	0	0	.000
Washington	0	1	.000
Cincinnati	0	1	.000
Arizona	0	2	.000
Chicago	0	2	.000

FRIDAY'S RESULTS
St. Louis 4, Houston 2
Atlanta 3, Minnesota 1
Boston 7, Tampa Bay 6
Pittsburgh 4, N.Y. Yankees 3
Philadelphia 6, Detroit 6
Toronto 9, Baltimore 5
Cleveland 3, Cincinnati 2
Milwaukee 3, L.A. Dodgers 3
Colorado 5, Arizona 3
Oakland 10, L.A. Angels 8
Kansas City 5, Texas 5
San Diego 6, Seattle 4
Miami 8, Washington 3
Chicago Cubs vs. San Francisco, late

SATURDAY'S GAMES
N.Y. Yankees vs. Baltimore, 1:05p.m.
Houston vs. Miami, 1:05p.m.
Boston vs. Minnesota, 1:05p.m.
Toronto vs. Philadelphia, 1:05p.m.
Detroit vs. Pittsburgh, 1:05p.m.
Atlanta vs. Tampa Bay, 1:05p.m.
San Diego vs. Chicago Cubs, 4:05p.m.
Cleveland vs. Chicago White Sox, 4:05 p.m.
Milwaukee vs. Texas, 4:05p.m.
San Francisco vs. Colorado, 4:10p.m.
Arizona vs. L.A. Angels, 4:10p.m.
L.A. Dodgers vs. Seattle, 4:10p.m.
N.Y. Mets vs. Washington, 6:05p.m.
Oakland vs. Cincinnati, 9:05p.m.

GOLF

PGA VALSPAR CHAMPIONSHIP

2nd of 4 rounds, Innisbrook-Copperhead, Palm Harbor, Fla., 7,340 yards; Par 71

Matthew NeSmith	67-61—128	-14
Adam Hadwin	64-66—130	-12
Sam Burns	64-67—131	-11
Scott Stallings	65-66—131	-11
Justin Thomas	66-66—132	-10
Davis Riley	65-68—133	-9
Brian Harman	67-67—134	-8
Xander Schauffele	67-67—134	-8
Webb Simpson	67-67—134	-8
Stewart Cink	67-68—135	-7
Matt Fitzpatrick	67-68—135	-7
Tommy Fleetwood	67-68—135	-7
Martin Kaymer	69-66—135	-7
David Lipsky	64-71—135	-7
Troy Merritt	68-67—135	-7
Louis Oosthuizen	67-68—135	-7
Jhonattan Vegas	64-71—135	-7
Richy Werenski	65-70—135	-7
Gary Woodland	67-68—135	-7
Joseph Bramlett	69-67—136	-6
Tyrrell Hatton	68-68—136	-6
Kevin Kisner	70-66—136	-6
Patton Kizzire	69-67—136	-6
Kevin Streelman	67-69—136	-6
Kiradech Aphibarnrat	69-68—137	-5
Joel Dahmen	68-69—137	-5
Bill Haas	71-66—137	-5
Brandon Hagy	70-67—137	-5
Kramer Hickok	66-71—137	-5
Brooks Koepka	67-70—137	-5
Shane Lowry	69-68—137	-5
Seung-Yul Noh	70-67—137	-5
C.T. Pan	71-66—137	-5
Pat Perez	67-70—137	-5
Robert Streb	68-69—137	-5
Brian Stuard	68-69—137	-5
Brandon Wu	72-65—137	-5
Tyler Duncan	69-69—138	-4
Brice Garnett	67-71—138	-4
Harry Higgs	70-68—138	-4
John Huh	71-67—138	-4
Dustin Johnson	67-71—138	-4
Collin Morikawa	68-70—138	-4
Alex Noren	68-70—138	-4
Doc Redman	66-72—138	-4
J.J. Spaun	67-71—138	-4
Sahith Theegala	67-71—138	-4
Michael Thompson	72-66—138	-4
Paul Barjon	68-71—139	-3
Christiaan Bezuidenhout	70-69—139	-3
Ryan Brehm	71-68—139	-3
Wesley Bryan	68-71—139	-3
Luke Donald	68-71—139	-3
Viktor Hovland	69-70—139	-3
Blake Kennedy	67-72—139	-3
Russell Knox	71-68—139	-3
Matt Kuchar	67-72—139	-3
Nate Lashley	71-68—139	-3
Danny Lee	65-74—139	-3
Denny McCarthy	69-70—139	-3
Max McGreevy	70-69—139	-3
Mito Pereira	69-70—139	-3
Chez Reavie	67-72—139	-3
Greyson Sigg	67-72—139	-3
Austin Smotherman	68-71—139	-3
Henrik Stenson	70-69—139	-3

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Saturday: vs. Mercer, at Gampel, 1 p.m., ABC

UCONN
COURANT.COM/SPORTS

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Paige Bueckers, left, and Caroline Ducharme slap hands during practice for a women's college basketball NCAA tournament first round game in Storrs.J**ESSICA HILL / SPECIAL TO THE COURANT**

UConn

from Page 1

grown and your team has matured," Auriemma said. "You don't really know until you've been put through that test to see if you pass it or not. This year's Big East Tournament kind of went like last year's Big East Tournament, so it's hard to say, this early stage of postseason, where we are.

"Certainly we're a more experienced team than we were last year. We certainly have more options than we did last year. So I think in a lot of respects we're a different team, a better team, a more complete team than we were last year at this time. Whether that translates into maturity, you know, teams act really, really mature when the ball's going in the basket. And all of a sudden they become very immature when the ball's not going in."

The Huskies (25-5), by that standard, have looked very mature during their 10-game win streak, winning by an average margin of 37.8 points. Since various players returned from injuries and illnesses that depleted the Huskies in the midseason, they've played relentless pressure defense and are always one sub away from fresh legs or a hot shooting hand.

"Just having to face a lot of adversity this season, it builds a sense of maturity within you and your teammates," UConn senior Olivia Nelson-Ododa said. "And I think just kind of going through that whole process and then now getting into the tournament, I think those experiences have definitely helped us. And I think it has also prepared us for a lot of things. I think it also builds on the excitement we have going into this tournament and being able to play games."

There was no NCAA Tournament in 2020, with the COVID-19 pandemic shutting down sports around the world. It was a, perhaps, joyless experience in 2021. The Huskies spent three weeks in their hotels playing before just a smattering of fans. UConn's seniors have not had the full March Madness experience since their freshman season.

"Our four years being here, going through the tournament process has been very unique," Nelson-Ododa said. "We're just trying to share with the younger guys just how fun it is. Trying to tell them, 'It's a fun experience, just go enjoy it.' "

With the NCAA closing the inequities gap between the men's and women's events, they are even able to play under the March Madness brand for the first time. If the Huskies defeat Mercer (23-6), the Southern Conference champs, they will face either No. 10 Florida or No. 7 UCF on Monday.

"We have talented players," Mercer coach Susie Gardner said. "But the difference between our level and this level is typically the size of he athletes."

Here's what you need to know for UConn's NCAA Tournament opener.

The basics

NCAA Tournament first round
Site: Gampel Pavilion
Time: 1 p.m. ET
Series: First meeting
TV: ABC (Pam Ward, Stephanie White)
Radio: UConn IMG Sports Network on 97.9 ESPN (Bob Joyce, Debbie Fiske)

No. 15 Mercer probable starters, sixth player

Amoria Neal-Tysor G, 5-6, Sr.; Erin Houpt G, 5-6, Fr.; Shannon Titus G/F, 6-0, Sr.; Jaron Dougherty, F, 6-0, Sr.; Allie Thayne F, 6-2, Sr.; Nigeria Harkless F, 6-2, Fr.

No. 2 UConn probable starters, sixth player

Olivia Nelson-Ododa, F, 6-5, Sr.; Christyn Williams, G, 5-11, Sr.; Nika Mühl, G, 5-10, So.; Azzi Fudd, G, 5-11, Fr.; Paige Bueckers, G, 5-11, So.; Aaliyah Edwards, F, 6-3, So.

The matchup

UConn's offense: The Huskies have had different leaders at different times based on who is healthy, but their stat sheet shows remarkable balance over the run of the season, with six players averaging 9.5 points or better. They're shooting 48.9% from the floor, 34.1% on 3s.
UConn's defense: UConn allowed 54.2 points per game, 43.8 over the last 10 games. Opponents are shooting 35.2%. 28.4% on 3s and — a telling effect of UConn's disruptiveness — have 159 more turnovers than assists. UConn, trailing by as much as 19, outscored Villanova 24-10 in the fourth quarter on Feb. 8 to nearly pull off a comeback. Opponents shoot 40.3% against the Huskies, 30.3% on 3s. UConn will have a big height advantage, especially in the backcourt.
Mercer's offense: Neal-Tysor leads with 17.0 points, so it's a good bet the Huskies will put Big East Defensive Player of the Year Mühl on her. Mercer can spread the floor and shoot it, however, averaging 36.6% on 3s led by Houpt (41%).
Mercer's defense: Opponents are held to 35.2% from the floor, 24.9 from behind the arc. Mercer has the fifth-best 3-point defensive in Division I, but opponents do outrebound Mercer by 1.2 per game.Titus is a three-time Southern Conference Defensive Player of the Year.
UConn keys: The Huskies need to set the tone with a knockout run early to give Auriemma the chance to play everybody and save something in the tank for Round 2.
Players to watch: It's another game for UConn to evaluate Paige Bueckers' progress. For Mercer, Neal-Tysor is the one to contain.
About Mercer's coach: Susie Gardner, who played on a Final Four team at Georgia, is 395-300 as a Division I head coach at Austin Peay, Arkansas and, since 2010, Mercer. She has led the Bears to four consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances.
Mercer's mascot: The Bears.
Famous alumni: Nancy Grace, TV legal analyst.

Dom Amore can be reached at damore@courant.com

Hockey

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an empty-netter with 2:08 remaining.

"I was happy with the way we competed today for 60 minutes," Cavanaugh said. "Last week we sat back a little bit and protected a lead [against BU], but this game we were on our toes in the third period and played a strong game for the full 60 and we'll happy to be playing tomorrow."

The Huskies saw a large contingent of fans from Connecticut who rode the "Ice Bus" to Boston, and drew confidence.

"Up 3-1 at TD Garden, two minutes left, playing our game, that was so much fun," Hanson said. "All the UConn support, it surprised me. Coming out in warmups, seeing that whole UConn section, it motivates us. We're going to get 'em tomorrow."

Huskies

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getting us back to the tournament back-to-back years. Just playing out some really strong regular seasons. It's just — you know, it's crushing to see your guys not be able to get the enjoyment of that next game and the build up. It sucks."

After trailing by as many as 14 points, guard R.J. Cole led UConn to a comeback in the second half, which fell just short. The Huskies' first-half mistakes cost them. In pivotal moments, the usually tough UConn defense failed to get stops.

"Just getting ourselves down by 10 and then down by 14, we put ourselves in a horrible spot," Hurley said.

Here are some takeaways from UConn's season-ending loss.

'Teddy Buckets' unstoppable

All season long, the Huskies have struggled against physical teams. This game was no exception.

The story of the game was the Huskies' abysmal defense on New Mexico State's Teddy Allen. Allen finished with 37 points on 10-for-24 shooting from the field. All night long, he made tough shot after tough shot, scoring New Mexico State's last 15 points in the game.

"We wanted him to take tough shots, but he just happened to take more tough shots than he missed, and that's a credit to his offense," said UConn guard Tyrese Martin.

New Mexico State also won the rebounding battle, 26-25, and limited UConn to just eight offensive rebounds.

Perimeter defense a problem

UConn must improve its overall scoring and perimeter defense to take the next step as a program. In his four-year tenure, Hurley has brought the program back to the limelight but hasn't made into out of the first round. That has to change.

Perhaps the one weak spot of the Huskies' defense is its inability to defend the 3. UConn lost multiple games this year due to its inability to close out on shooters and gave too many open looks to players. This season, opponents shot 35.3% from 3 against the Huskies, which is No. 276 in Division I, according to KenPom.

The Aggies came into the game shooting 33% from 3. Against UConn, they shot 11-for-17 (64.7%). You won't win many games where your opponent shoots that well from beyond the arc.

Sanogo good, but has a ways to go

Adama Sanogo has often been toted as one of the hardest-working players on the UConn team, which was evident this season.

Sanogo earned All-Big East forst-team honors as he averaged 14.8 points, 8.8 rebounds and 1.9 blocks a game. In many ways, he took a big leap in a short amount of time. His passing was a massive weakness coming into the season, but he slowly improved on it and his overall vision as time went along.

While he had a successful season overall, he left a lot to be desired in the last three games. Against New Mexico State, he finished with 10 points on 4-for-9 shooting. In the previous two games, Sanogo had 15 points on 6-for-15 shooting against Villanova and six points on 2-for-9 shooting against Seton Hall in the Big East Tournament.

The Huskies' offense relies on him to make shots, as it opens up the floor for everybody else. With the likely departure of a large chunk of the Huskies' offensive talent, UConn will need Sanogo to step up even more next season. He's shown in warmups that he can hit the midrange jumper, so if he added that to his game, it would help the Huskies — and possibly raise his NBA draft stock.

The last word

Next season, the Huskies will have to embrace the youth movement — and the transfer portal — as crucial rotation players such as graduate students Isaiah Whaley and Tyler Polley are no longer eligible. Cole and Martin could leave, but haven't decided yet.

"We fight," Martin said. "I wouldn't want to go to war without any one of those guys that were out there with me today, even the ones that didn't get in the game. Going through what we went through, it hurts going out how we went out. We're fighters. We just couldn't get over that hump, that one-point lead. We just couldn't find a way to get over that hump. That was the story of the game."

Cole feels the Huskies are in good hands with Sanogo and company in the future.

"I'm very confident," he said. "They were part of this program when we first got in here as well, so we built it from the ground up with them especially. They're very talented, and I think they're going to do very big things in this program and help this program continue to make the rise that it needs to be."

Yale

from Page 1

"Have you seen anybody in your life as big as (Edey) is?" Jones said. "Other than Yao Ming, I've seen nobody as big as he is. He is the second-largest man I've ever seen."

Led by Ivey and Edey, No. 3 seed Purdue (28-7) won its NCAA opener for the fourth time in its last five tournaments. The lone exception occurred last year, when Purdue was upset by 13th-seeded North Texas in the first round.

The overtime loss to the Mean Green seemed like a distant memory as the Boilermakers pulled away from the 14th-seeded Bulldogs at the beginning of the second half. Next up is the winner of Virginia Tech-Texas in the second round of the East Region on Sunday.

"We all felt the feeling of losing last year, first round, so I felt like all of our guys were motivated," Ivey said, "and so was I."

Azar Swain scored 18 points for Yale (19-12), which had won 11 of 13. The Bulldogs shot just 36.5% from the field.

It was the first NCAA Tournament game for the Bulldogs since 2019. They won the Ivy League's regular-season title in 2020, but the postseason was canceled because of the pandemic. They didn't play at all last season because the league canceled all sports due to the COVID-19 outbreak.



NCAA TOURNAMENT



TEXAS TECH 97, MONTANA STATE 62

Raiders leave no doubt

After upsets rule Day 1, Texas Tech one of many routs by top seeds

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Terrence Shannon Jr. scored 20 points and set a dominating tone in the opening minutes for Texas Tech, which overwhelmed Montana State 97-62 Friday with one of the best-shooting games in the first round since the NCAA Tournament expanded to 64 teams in 1985.

Bryson Williams also scored 20 points for Texas Tech (26-9), which shot 66.7% (36 of 54) from the field, including making 12 of 20 3-pointers. At one point the Red Raiders were trending toward breaking Syracuse's record of 67.9% (38 of 56) against Southern Illinois in 1995. They settled for a tie for fourth.

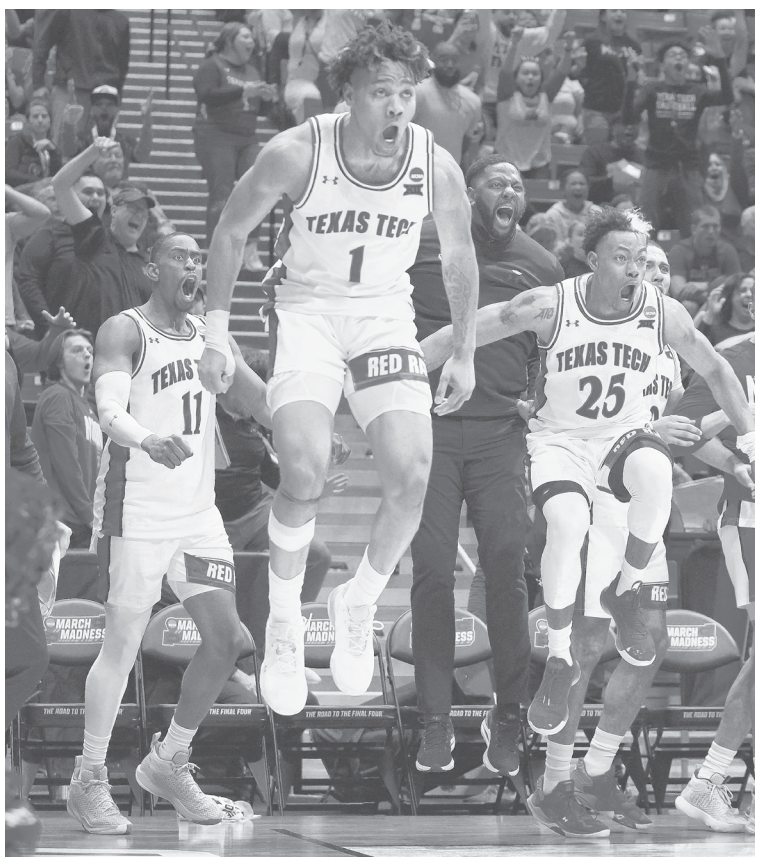
Texas Tech, the No. 3 seed in the West Region, was too big, quick and talented for the Bobcats (27-8), who were making their first NCAA Tournament appearance since 1996. The Red Raiders will play either No. 6 seed Alabama or 11th-seeded Notre Dame in the second round.

Shannon also had six of Texas Tech's 23 assists.

"I feel like everyone was unselfish," Shannon said. "Nobody was hurrying shots. We did a good job moving the ball, and when we play unselfish and selfless we're a pretty good team."

The Big Sky champion Bobcats won the opening tipoff and Shannon welcomed them back to March Madness by blocking Amin Adamu's shot. Two possessions later, Shannon hit the first of his 3-pointers in the first four minutes to erase Montana State's only lead.

"My teammates, they found me when I was open," Shannon said. "We had a lot of assists. And I just wanted to bring energy to the game. And I was just playing off that."



Texas Tech's Adonis Arms (25) and Terrence Shannon Jr. (1) celebrate during their game against Montana State in a first-round game of the NCAA Tournament on Friday in San Diego. **RONALD MARTINEZ/GETTY**

Xavier Bishop led Montana State with 12 points.

The Red Raiders led 18-4 less than five minutes in after hitting four 3-pointers, blocking two shots and forcing the Bobcats into a shot clock violation.

Texas Tech took a 52-25 halftime lead, using a swarming defense to feed an impressive combination of 3s and inside shots. Kevin Obanor worked the baseline for two reverse layups and had a slam dunk.

Williams, named to the All-Big 12 First Team and Big 12 Newcomer Team, had two of the Red Raiders' seven 3s in the first half. He scored 12 points in the second half.

"We obviously didn't play our best today and almost 100 percent of that has to do with Texas Tech," Montana State coach Danny Sprinkle said. "It felt like they were guarding me. I couldn't see even see my play card. They make every catch hard. They contest not only every shot, they contest every pass, and they made it really difficult for us."

Raiders record

The 97 points broke Texas Tech's previous NCAA Tournament record, set in a 92-73 win over North Carolina in the second round in 1996.

"You guys be careful how you say that," Texas Tech coach Mike Adams told Shannon and Williams when they were asked about breaking the record.

Later, Adams said, "I was a little concerned. I don't want our guys thinking too much offense. I want them to stay with our identity on defense. But seriously, it's one of the best offensive games we've had. We really shared the ball."

Big picture

Texas Tech's Williams was playing in his first NCAA Tournament game, and in his home state, no less. The super senior spent two seasons with Fresno State in his hometown before spending three seasons at UTEP and then moving on to Texas Tech this season.

ROUNDUP

Loyola runs out of miracles vs. OSU

Associated Press

No extended March stay for Loyola Chicago and Sister Jean this time.

Not with Ohio State taking away every inch of open space. Not with E.J. Liddell creating a bit of his own with each pull-up jumper. Not with the seventh-seeded Buckeyes showing that when healthy, they can make every trip down the floor for their opponent a frustrating mess.

E.J. Liddell scored 16 points, Big Ten Freshman of the Year Malaki Branham added 14 and Ohio State shut down the 10th-seeded Ramblers from start to finish, winning 54-41 in the first round of the NCAA Tournament on Friday.

The Buckeyes (20-11) advanced to play Villanova on Sunday in the South Region while preventing another March run by the Ramblers (25-8), who shot 27% (15 of 56) from the floor.

Loyola's 41 points were a season low and the program's fewest since scoring 39 against Indiana State in 2020. After hearing repeatedly about the Ramblers' smothering defense, the Buckeyes provided some of their own.

Braden Norris the Ramblers with 14 points but star Lucas Williamson endured perhaps his worst game of the season.

Purdue 78, Yale 56: Jaden Ivey raced his way to 22 points and Zach Edey controlled the action inside, helping Purdue overpower Yale for a victory in the first round of the NCAA Tournament on Friday. With Ivey dashing up and down the court and Edey towering over the lane, No. 3 seed Purdue (28-7) won its NCAA opener for the fourth time in its last five tournaments. Azar Swain scored 18 points on 8-for-19 shooting for Yale (19-12), which had won 11 of 13.

Villanova 80, Delaware 60: Justin Moore scored 21 points, Collin Gillespie added 14 and second-seeded Villanova had little trouble with 15th-seeded Delaware. The Wildcats (27-7) used a 35-10 surge spanning the end of the first half and the start of the second to turn an eight-point deficit into a blowout. Delaware (22-13) showed some early fight against its northern neighbor in a meeting of programs separated by 43 miles on the map and considerably more in the college basketball landscape.

Auburn 80, Jacksonville State 61: Freshman Jabari Smith had 20 points and 14 rebounds as second-seeded Auburn pulled away from Jacksonville State late in the first half . Walker Kessler, Smith's partner in the paint, finished a block shy of a triple-double with 13 points, 10 rebounds and nine blocks. The Tigers (28-5) will face 10th-seeded Miami on Sunday for a spot in the Sweet 16.

Miami 68, USC 66: In the afternoon session's lone upset, the Hurricanes go past the Trojans to advance to the round of 32. 10th-seeded Miami (24-10 got 22 points from Isaiah Wong. The Trojans finished the season with a record of 26-8.

Texas 81, Virginia Tech 73: Andrew Jones scored 21 points, Marcus Carr beat the halftime buzzer with a shot from well beyond halfcourt to put Texas ahead for good, and the Longhorns beat Virginia Tech for their first NCAA Tournament victory since 2014.

Notre Dame 78, Alabama 64: Cormac Ryan scored a career-high 29 points, including seven 3-pointers, and 11th-seeded Notre Dame recovered from a grueling First Four win and late-night flight to beat sixth-seeded Alabama.

Illinois 54, Chattanooga 53: Two free throws by guard Alfonso Plummer in the closing seconds thwarted the Mocs' upset bid. The Illini didn't lead until the final minute of the second half, as Chattanooga led by as many as 14 points.

MOTORING



A Waymo minivan arrives to pick up passengers for an autonomous vehicle ride in April 2021 in Mesa, Arizona. **ROSS D. FRANKLIN/AP PHOTOS**

ROBOTS ON THE ROAD

Waymo's autonomous rides were smooth, efficient and stress-free

By Henry Payne
The Detroit News

I secure my seatbelt in the back seat, press the START RIDE button, and my Waymo One Chrysler Pacifica enters traffic on Warner Road, the steering wheel spinning right — then left — into the center lane before slowing for a stoplight.

There is no one in the car but me.

Four years after an autonomous Uber car killed a cyclist here, fully autonomous Waymo ride-sharing is on the streets ferrying drivers to their destinations. Like Uber or Lyft, they are open to the public. Unlike those familiar services, there are no drivers on board.

I took multiple trips over three days across the southeast Phoenix service area. The rides were smooth, efficient, stress-free and on time.

Since October 2020, Waymo One has serviced 50 square miles through the adjacent communities of Tempe, Mesa, Gilbert and Chandler — the first Level 4 autonomous cars on offer to the public, 24/7, rain-or-shine, via a downloadable smartphone app.

(The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration defines automated vehicle systems as follows: Level 1, Driver Assistance, some driver-assist features may be included; Level 2, Partial Automation, combined automated functions such as steering and acceleration, with a driver maintaining control; Level 3, Conditional Automation, driver must be ready to take control of the vehicle at all times; Level 4, High Automation, the vehicle can perform all driving functions under certain conditions; Level 5, Full Automation, the vehicle can perform all driving functions under all conditions.)

I wait for 18 minutes at the Tempe Public Library at a quiet, urban intersection. The white Chrysler Pacifica — a big "W" printed on its doors — is recognizable from afar with its blue LIDAR "bubble-gum machine" on the roof.



Waymo, a unit of Google parent Alphabet Inc., is one of several companies testing driverless vehicles in the United States.

A passerby exclaims at the sci-fi bot and reaches it before I do — "Wow! A driverless car!" — snapping pics with his phone. Generally, though, I'm struck by how accepted Waymos seem to be. With 300-400 robots on the road, locals mostly pass them by without a second look.

Phoenix is a sprawling metropolitan area where personal transport is king. Like other ride-share companies, robotaxis see an opportunity to service people without vehicles, including the elderly or those with health issues. The Epilepsy Foundation of Arizona and Foundation for Senior Living are Waymo partners. I focused my rides on meeting daily necessities.

I hailed robots to Freddy's Custard and Steak (a popular local burger chain similar to Shake Shack), Walmart, Starbucks and CVS Pharmacy. Pickup times were generally comparable with Lyft at 4-7 minutes. My ride from the Tempe Library to Freddy's cost $10 — competitive with a $14 Lyft ride.

There is no mistaking my ride for someone else's Waymo. My initials — HP — are displayed in bright blue on the dash. The Waymo is plastered with instructions. Upon approach, a sign on the front door beckons me in ("Please take a back seat to access controls and display"). I open the sliding door and a voice welcomes me ("Good afternoon, Henry").

As in a New York taxi, I am separated from the (empty) front seat by plexiglass. A touchscreen hangs from the seatback confirming my destination. Once underway, the screen displays a car eye's view of the driving environment: vehicles, pedestrians, buildings, stoplights. Every two seconds, the LIDAR sweep displays even more detail with ghostlike shapes of bushes, trees, lamp posts, etc.

A camera watches me from above. The remote voice of a Waymo Rider Support agent intervenes. "Is your seat belt on?" she asks from Waymo's Chandler service center. "I can't tell since it's similar to the color of your shirt."

I confirm that I'm buckled in — and learn I can push the HELP button (next to the camera) anytime to ask questions. I can also press PULL OVER if I want to stop the minivan.

A member of the Alphabet Inc. family with Google, Waymo uses the Pacifica Plug-in model (with 32 miles of battery range before the gas engine kicks in), which is a nice evolution from its Lexus 450h hybrid predecessor that featured a prominent "popcorn box" LIDAR on top and only a second-row of seats for passengers. With their flexible, three-row interiors, minivans have long made excellent ride-share vehicles.

Pacifica's modern, bullet-like shape dovetails with the "Waymo Driver" suite of sci-fi equipment: a long-range, mid-range and four short-range LIDARs. Additional hardware includes 19 cameras, six radar units and multiple microphones. It's a Best Buy shopper's dream ride.

One day, I bring my suitcase and briefcase along. But unlike the Lyft Nissan Quest minivan that delivered me to Tempe, I can't access the Pacifica's hatchback.

"Sorry, but you'll have to put your bags in the seat next to you," responds the Rider Support agent. Seems all that LIDAR hardware requires a lot of computer hardware in the boot to run. Just like the ol' Lexus. Still, the minivan proves its worth — it can swallow two passengers and their luggage. Or a lot of groceries.

With its favorable regulatory environment, high-tech workforce and diverse population of seniors and college students, Phoenix has ideal demographics to attract autonomous experiments. The Tempe service area is home to Intel's sprawling semiconductor manufacturing facilities, Mesa Community College and neighboring bedroom communities. In addition to Waymo, GM's Cruise is testing autonomous grocery deliveries with Walmart.

Enjoy the V8-powered coupe while it's around

By Nick Yekikian
Edmunds

It isn't hard to see that the writing is on the wall for the V8-powered performance coupe. When the end will come, we don't know exactly. Whether it's their distinctive rumbly soundtrack or sleek bodywork, these coupes manage to stir the soul. With that in mind, Edmunds' editors picked the best V8-powered cars to highlight here.

2022 Ford Mustang: The Mustang has had an undeniable effect on American popular culture, automotive and otherwise, for nearly 60 years. Today, the Shelby GT500 sits atop the Mustang range with its 760-horsepower supercharged V8. However, the standard Mustang GT's 450-pony 5.0-liter V8 is a better value and a powerhouse in its own right. Starting MSRP: $37,645

2022 Dodge Challenger: No other modern coupe better re-creates the classic American muscle car experience than the Challenger. It easily looks the part and even offers not one but three different V8s. It sets the bar for big, silly fun. Starting MSRP: $52,745

2022 Chevrolet Corvette: The Chevy Corvette has been powered by a V8 for the majority of its existence. Today, the Corvette can be had with two V8s. The 2023 Corvette Z06 features the most powerful non-turbocharged V8 — with 670 horsepower — ever placed in a production car. Starting MSRP: $62,145

2022 Jaguar F-Type: The Jaguar F-Type has been on sale since 2015, and Jaguar has tried an array of powertrain combinations to try to sell it. For 2022, though, the F-Type is V8-only. You can still have either a coupe or a convertible, with either rear- or all-wheel drive, too. Starting MSRP: $72,450

2021 Lexus LC 500: While most of the Lexus lineup is powered by four- or six-cylinder engines, the LC 500 features a 471-horsepower 5.0-liter V8. Unlike the brawny Mustang or Challenger, the LC 500 is a luxurious grand tourer that puts a premium on overall excellence and long-haul comfort. Thanks to its sing-song V8 soundtrack and stunning interior design, the LC is worth the price. Starting MSRP: $94,625



The Ford Mustang has a few V8 engines to choose from. **FORD**



The 2022 Nissan Sentra. **NISSAN**

AUTO REVIEW

’22 Nissan Sentra is the perfect antidote for rising new car costs

By Larry Printz
Tribune News Service

Despite the evangelizing efforts of environmentalists touting alternative forms of transportation such as public transit or car-sharing, what Americans continue to want is their own vehicles. Cars, SUVs, trucks and minivans maintain their magical grip on our imagination.

And you don’t have to pay a king’s ransom to get a sedan that’s easy to drive and park. Might I suggest a 2022 Nissan Sentra? Having been redesigned for 2020, the Sentra comes in ascending S, SV and SR trim levels, with prices starting at $19,610. The top-of-the-line SR test car started at $22,200.

The nicely loaded Sentra SR I drove cost $27,615, and it included the expected niceties such as power locks/windows/mirrors and driver’s seat with power lumbar, along with quite a few features you might not, such as heated front seats, heated steering wheel, Bose 8-speaker audio system, and fake leather seat trim.

Two new packages have been added for 2022. A new Midnight Edition Package includes black-painted grille, rear spoiler and rear diffuser, black exterior badging and black 18-inch aluminum-alloy wheels. Also available is a new All-Weather Package for the SV grade, with dual zone automatic climate control, heated front seats, heated steering wheel and remote engine start.

2022 Nissan Sentra

Base price: $22,200
Engine: 2.0-liter DOHC four-cylinder
Horsepower/torque: 149/146
EPA fuel economy (city/highway): 28/37 mpg
Cargo capacity: 14.3 cubic feet

But it is a small car, and its infotainment screen is on the smaller end of acceptability at 8 inches, but it still works well enough, and includes Apple CarPlay, Android Auto, SiriusXM Radio and Bluetooth. The SR trim level also comes with a front USB-A and USB-C ports, as well as a rear USB-A port. However, a smaller 7-inch touchscreen is standard on the Sentra S, while SV and SR trims get the larger 8-inch touchscreen. It also comes with the NissanConnect app that allows you to remotely lock or unlock your car, receive roadside assistance and start your vehicle from your smartphone.

Regardless of which trim level you choose, you’ll get the same driveline: a double-overhead-cam 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine mated to a continuously variable automatic transmission generating 149 horsepower through the front wheels. And most buyers will appreciate the extensive list of standard safety equipment, including automatic emergency braking with pedestrian detection, forward collision warning, rear automatic braking, blind spot warning, rear cross traffic alert, lane departure warning, high beam assist and a rear-view monitor.

Once behind the wheel, you’ll find the Sentra to have nicely weighted steering that returns some road feel, with some body lean in corners, nimble handling and a comfortably compliant ride. Braking is impressive as well. Only hardline enthusiasts will feel disappointed and wish for more horsepower.

The interior is spacious, with upscale detailing such as the stitching. Seats are comfortable, but support is lacking over longer drives. And legroom is generous both front and rear.

In an age when headlines keep reminding consumers that cars are unaffordable, the 2022 Sentra proves to be the perfect antidote.

Larry Printz is an automotive journalist based in South Florida. Readers may send him email at TheDrivingPrintz@gmail.com

Blinded by the (head)lights



Bob Weber
Motormouth



Automakers are allowed to install adaptive beam headlights on new vehicles. **VIKENTIY ELIZAROV/DREAMSTIME**

Q: Are headlights on cars and trucks getting brighter or am I just getting older? Some makes and models seem brighter than others, including most pickup trucks.
— J.O., Plymouth, Minnesota

A: Not only are we getting older, automobile lights are getting brighter. With my apologies to Manfred Mann, we may soon see some relief from being “blinded by the light (revved up like a deuce / another runner in the night).” On Feb. 15, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration issued a final rule allowing automakers to install adaptive driving beam headlights on new vehicles. NHTSA says that the adaptive beam is particularly useful for distance illumination of pedestrians, animals and objects without reducing the visibility of drivers in other vehicles.

Q: I live in a rural setting south of the Twin Cities in Minnesota. I am questioning the legality of unlicensed recreational vehicles using local streets and local highways. Often, I witness golf carts or ATV type recreational vehicles on city streets. I am disturbed by this because of safety issues. They are often slow-moving and do not have other safety tools like side mirrors or seat belts. I take issue with the fact that these vehicles do not have a license plate, indicating they pay for the use of our streets like the rest of us.
— C.Q., Kenyon, Minnesota

A: According to NHTSA, golf carts and similar vehicles that don’t exceed 20 mph top speed may be driven on public roads, with approval by the local town’s regulations. If they can go over 20 mph, they are required to meet federal motor vehicle laws. According to Kenyon city code, “... motorized golf cart[s] and electric or gas-powered vehicles with four wheels used primarily for light terrain slow moving operation that is (sic) equipped with a rear-view mirror and a windshield” are legal. But you must first obtain a permit.

Q: Since we purchased our 2016 MKX we have had an issue with the rear door (storage/trunk) auto closure sensor that allows you to place your foot in a position under the back tailgate area that automatically opens and closes the door. Many times, we accidentally place our foot under the door while we are placing or removing items such as groceries and the door begins to lower without any warning sounds and will not stop until it hits something or someone. We have been to our Lincoln dealership and have asked repeatedly to stop the sensor. Someone should be able to either remove it or deactivate it.
— J.A., Pompano Beach, Florida

A: You can enable or disable the power liftgate feature using the message center. But the button on the dash and the button on the key fob will continue to work. Check the message center section of your owner’s manual.

Q: I am a 92-year-old woman and drive my Toyota Corolla 1,000 miles a year just locally for shopping. I took my car to the Toyota dealership for an oil change and inspection, and they informed me that the brake pads, brake fluid level and master cylinder need replacing at a cost of $99.95 and $149.95 with rotors resurfaced. I am really stressed as a result. My mileage is currently 5,400 on my 2016 Toyota Corolla. Can you please tell me if I really need to do this?
— S.B., Chicago

A: This is the kind of excrement that gives honest, hardworking mechanics a bad name. No, I don’t think you need that stuff.

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber’s work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.





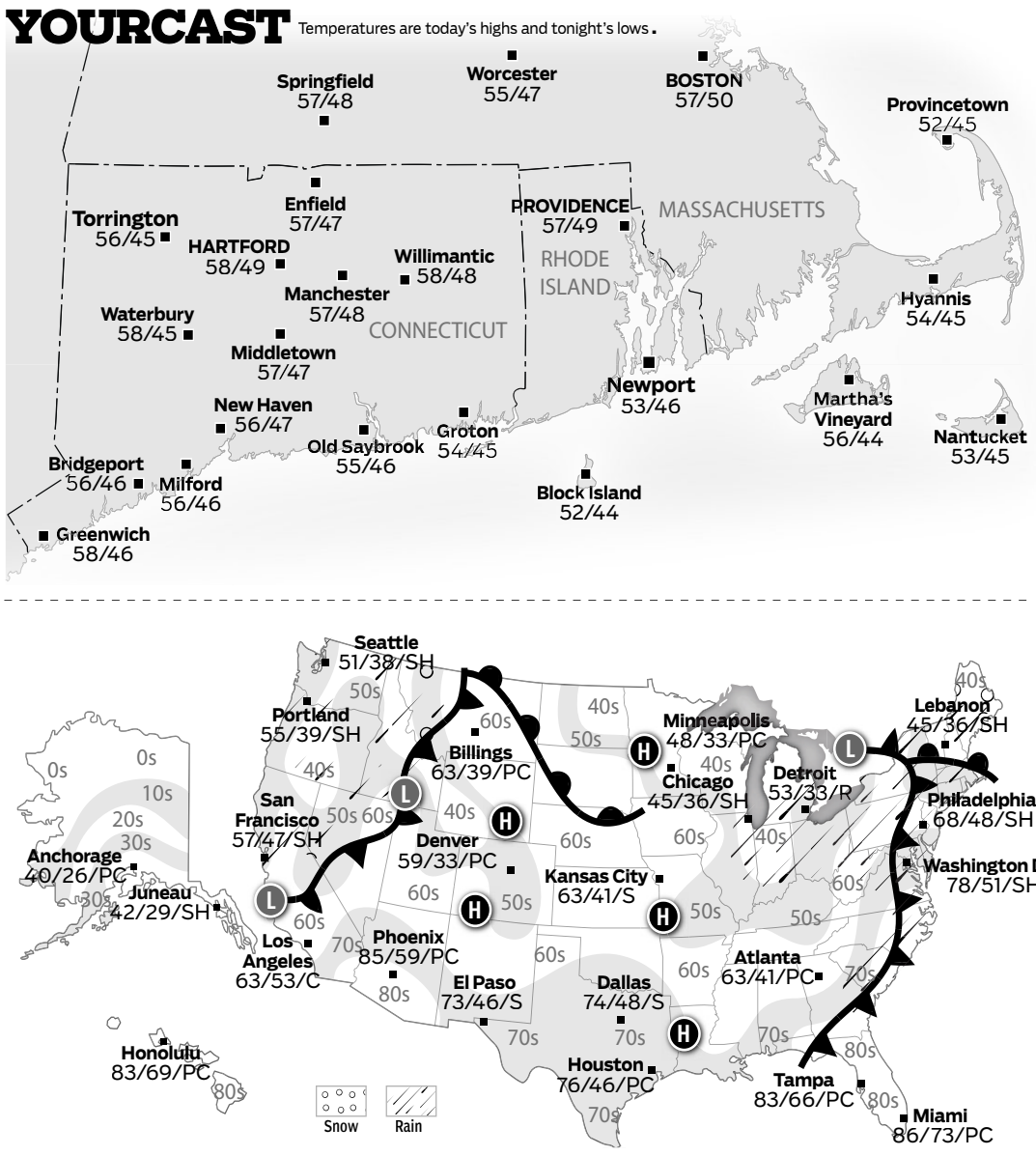
WEATHER

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
SUNRISE NOON SUNSET	SUNRISE NOON SUNSET	SUNRISE NOON SUNSET	SUNRISE NOON SUNSET	SUNRISE NOON SUNSET
Mostly cloudy, showers are likely, an afternoon thunderstorm is possible. Southeast wind at 5 to 10 mph.	Mixed clouds and some sunshine, breezy.	Mostly sunny and breezy.	Partly sunny and breezy.	Thickening cloudiness, a chance for late day showers.
HIGH 58° LOW 49°	HIGH 58° LOW 38°	HIGH 58° LOW 37°	HIGH 54° LOW 33°	HIGH 51° LOW 38°

CONNECTICUT WEATHER
For the latest weather news throughout your day.
courant.com/weather

YOURCAST

Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.



OUTLOOK

There were record high temperatures in the Greater Hartford area on Friday with a high of 76 degrees at Bradley Airport and at Brainard Airport. The record warmth is gone, and Saturday will feature a mostly cloudy sky with numerous showers and the chance for a few isolated thunderstorms or rumbles of thunder. The showers should last into the evening hours. An upper-level trough of low pressure in the Northeast on Sunday will prevent the sky from clearing, instead there will be a mixture of clouds and some sunshine. It will be mostly sunny on Monday. It will turn cooler by midweek.

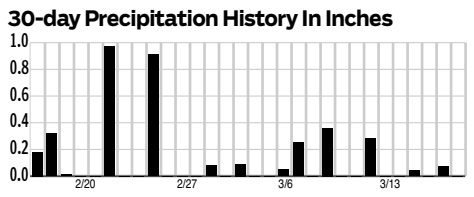
-Gary Lessor

ALMANAC

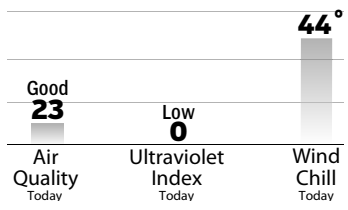
Precipitation In Inches	Total	Normal
Yesterday (by 7 p.m.)	0.02	0.13
Month to date	1.22	2.24
Total this year	7.53	8.65
Snowfall In Inches		
Yesterday (by 4 p.m.)	0.0	0.3
Total this year	31.5	48.1

Precipitation, temperature at Windsor Locks

30-day Precipitation History In Inches



Air Quality Forecast For Today



	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise	6:56 a.m.	6:55 a.m.
Sunset	7:01 p.m.	7:02 p.m.
Moonrise	8:46 p.m.	9:59 p.m.
Moonset	7:50 a.m.	8:14 a.m.

Moon Phase

Last	New	First	Full
Mar 25	Apr 1	Apr 9	Apr 16

Tides	High	Low	Temp.
N.L. State Pier	10:59 a.m. 11:16 p.m.	5:06 a.m. 5:20 p.m.	48°
Saybrook Jetty	a.m. 12:10 p.m.	5:59 a.m. 6:13 p.m.	46°
Connecticut River at Portland	2:32 a.m. 2:53 p.m.	9:45 a.m. 9:59 p.m.	
Madison	12:09 a.m. 12:32 p.m.	6:18 a.m. 6:35 p.m.	43°
New Haven	12:29 a.m. 12:52 p.m.	6:42 a.m. 6:59 p.m.	41°
Stamford	12:33 a.m. 12:56 p.m.	6:56 a.m. 7:13 p.m.	43°

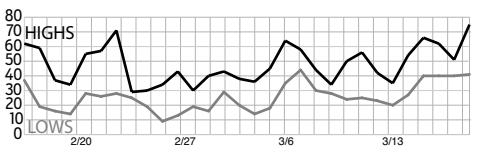
River Stage at Hartford: 8.77 feet at 6:30 p.m.

Boating	L.I. Sound W	L.I. Sound E	B. I. Sound
Weather	Showers	Showers	Fog
Wind	SE, 10-15	SE, 10-15	SE, 10-20
Seas	1-2 ft.	2-4 ft.	3-5 ft.

Temperature	High	Low
Friday	76 at 5:05 p.m	41 at 6:16 a.m
Normal for date	48	29
Record for date	75 in 2022	1 in 1956
A year ago	45	39
Range this year	76	-2

Heating Degree Days	Season	Normal	Last Season
For July 1 - March 18	4446	4866	4615

30-day Temperature History



Atmosphere	High	Low
Barometer	30.01 at 11 a.m.	29.89 at 4 a.m.
Dew point	51° at 12 p.m.	42° at 7 a.m.

AROUND THE WORLD

Today's forecast in cities not included in the maps above:

NEW ENGLAND			Baltimore	73	46 SH	Nashville	53	36 C	San Juan	86	74 SH
Bangor	41	35 SH	Bismarck	57	32 PC	New Orleans	69	49 PC	Tucson	85	54 S
Burlington	52	41 SH	Boise	57	32 PC	New York	63	49 SH	**WORLD**		
Caribou	35	30 SN	Buffalo	61	37 SH	Okla. City	74	47 S	Amsterdam	57	37 S
Concord	48	45 R	Charleston	80	53 C	Omaha	63	39 S	Athens	46	36 SH
Montpelier	44	34 SH	Cincinnati	50	37 SH	Orlando	89	65 PC	Bangkok	93	84 T
Mt. Wash.	36	29 SH	Cleveland	55	37 SH	Pittsburgh	62	38 SH	Barbados	84	71 S
Portland	45	43 SH	Indianapolis	46	37 SH	Raleigh	81	49 PC	Beijing	45	30 C
Woods Hole	53	46 R	Jacksonville	85	56 PC	St. Louis	55	41 PC	Beirut	59	47 C
NATION			Las Vegas	78	54 PC	Salt Lake City	65	42 PC	Berlin	52	32 PC
Albany	59	45 SH	Miami Beach	82	73 PC	San Antonio	77	49 S	Bermuda	72	65 S
Albuquerque	65	39 S	Milwaukee	45	34 SH	San Diego	64	59 C	Budapest	51	29 PC
Atlantic City	65	45 SH							Buenos Aires	72	55 PC
									Cairo	67	49 PC
									Cancun	86	72 S
									Dubai	77	66 PC
									Dublin	55	41 S
									Edinburgh	58	34 S
									Helsinki	52	30 S
									Hong Kong	81	70 PC
									Istanbul	39	32 SN
									Jerusalem	54	43 PC
									Johannesburg	73	59 PC
									Kingston	88	75 PC
									Lisbon	68	54 PC
									London	54	41 S
									Madrid	59	45 PC
									Mexico City	76	64 C
									Milan	57	37 C
									Montreal	45	43 R
									Moscow	43	27 S
									Nassau	84	70 SH
									New Delhi	97	72 S
									Paris	61	41 S
									Prague	52	32 PC
									Rio de Janeiro	100	72 PC
									Rome	63	43 R
									Seoul	43	34 R
									Singapore	93	73 T
									Stockholm	53	29 S
									Sydney	75	61 SH
									Tel Aviv	62	45 C
									Tokyo	61	43 PC
									Toronto	52	32 SH
									Vancouver	48	39 SH
									Warsaw	46	23 S

KEY: **S** Sunny, **C** Cloudy, **PC** Partly Cloudy, **R** Rain, **SH** Showers, **SN** Snow, **SF** Snow Flurries, **T** T-storms

Weather page produced by
WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY Weather Center

SOCCER

Hartford Athletic set to kick off USL Championship season

By Kellie Love
Hartford Courant



Hartford Athletic midfielder Danny Barrera passes the ball at a preseason scrimmage against Philadelphia Union II. **COURANT FILE**

The Hartford Athletic opens their USL Championship season on the road on Saturday against Eastern Conference rival Pittsburgh Riverhounds SC at 7 p.m.

Coach Harry Watling is back for his second season. Under Watling last year, Hartford went 12-15-5, setting club records in wins (12), points (41), goals scored (50) and clean sheets (9).

The Athletic return nine players from the 2021 season, including defenders Ash Apollon, Younes Boudadi and Tulu; midfielders Danny Barrera, Christian Gómez, Conor McGlynn and Luka Prpa; and forwards Jeciel Cedeño and Juan Carlos Obregón Jr.

Here's everything you need to know for the 2022 season:

Barrera captains the ship

Barrera, the Athletic team captain, is the only player to play for the club since its inaugural season in 2019. Barrera is the club's all-time leader in a number of statistical categories, including goals scored (13), assists (23) and appearances (65).

He is coming off his best season as his 12 assists were tops in the USL Championship, and his eight goals were his all-time high in a season.

Barrera was named to the 2021 USL Championship's All-League first team, becoming Hartford's first player to earn such an honor. He is also one assist behind Pittsburgh Riverhounds midfielder Kenardo Forbes as the USL Championship's all-time leader.

"Every time Danny gets the ball, you think something is going to happen," said Watling, according to a press release in December. "I love his imagination and creativity, but equally as important is his leadership and mentorship of the young players on this team. We will look to him to provide that again this season."

Double duty

Obregón Jr. is back for his second season. He was the team's leading scorer last year with 10 goals, the most in a season in team history. That feat is more impressive when you consider he missed almost a month competing with Honduras in the Tokyo Olympics, where he scored a crucial goal during the group stage in a 3-2 win over New Zealand.

"I am so happy to be back in Hartford for a second season," Obregón Jr. said, according to a release in January. "Last season was an incredible opportunity for me and I'm excited to come back to work with Coach Watling and the rest of the staff."

Obregón Jr. isn't the only player on the Athletic to compete for national teams. Other representatives include Peter-Lee Vassell (Jamaica) and Ash Apollon (Haiti).

Local talent

The Athletic newcomers this season include number of players with Connecticut roots. Former Bloomfield High, Watkinson School and Quinnipiac University star Rashawn Dally signed with the club in January. Dally, the 49th overall pick in the 2019 MSL Super Draft by FC Cincinnati, competed in the USL Championship with Memphis 901 FC last season.

The 6-foot-2 forward played four years at Quinnipiac where he had 15 goals and 16 assists in 78 games and was a two-time United Soccer Coaches All-East Region third-team honoree (2016, 2018), and a three-time All-MAAC performer (2018 first team; 2016, 2017 second team).

"I'm excited to give my all for the team and give the community wins and be an inspiration for the kids coming out to watch," Dally said during a media call in January.

Former Wethersfield and University of Hartford goalkeeper Jimmy Slayton joins the Athletic after a season with former USL Championship club Real Monarchs. Slayton was a four-year starter with the Hawks.

Local 17-year-olds Pearse O'Brien from West Hartford and Sebastian Pliszka from Newington signed academy contracts with the Athletic, allowing them to train and play with the team while keeping their collegiate eligibility. Pliszka currently attends Loomis Chaffee School in Windsor and returns for his second season with the club. O'Brien, a product of the Oakwood Soccer Club in Glastonbury, joins the Athletic after spending the 2021 season with the Real Salt Lake Academy. He holds dual-citizenship in the United States and Ireland, spending time with the Irish Youth National Team in 2020.

New format

After navigating the COVID-19 pandemic the past two seasons, the USL Championship returns to a more normal format in 2022.

Hartford will play 34 USL Championship regular-season matches including 17 home games, 15 of which will be played on a Saturday. The Athletic will play one home and one away match with each team in the Eastern Conference as well as crossover matches with eight Western Conference teams, including Phoenix Rising, El Paso Locomotive, San Diego Loyal, Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC, Rio Grande Valley Toros FC, LA Galaxy II, Las Vegas Lights FC and Oakland Roots.

Home, sweet home

The Athletic will play their home opener on April 2 at 7 p.m. against Atlanta United 2. Hartford plays its home games at newly renamed Trinity Health Stadium, formerly Dillon Stadium. Capacity is roughly 5,550.

On Thursday, the club announced a multiear stadium naming rights partnership with Trinity Health of New England, who joined as a founding partner of the club in 2019 and will continue to have its logo on the front of the player' jerseys.

The stadium, built in the 1930s, was named Dillon Stadium in 1956. It was named after James H. Dillon, who worked as the City of Hartford's recreation director for nearly 40 years. Athletic owner Bruce Mandell said the team will commemorate Dillon within the stadium.

Fans interested in buying tickets can visit hartfordathletic.com/tickets.

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Cooking more at home? Want the latest on the hottest restaurants? Want to share that new recipe?

Join the Courant's cooking club online at **www.facebook.com/groups/CourantCookingClub** to share recipes, tips and take part in exclusive cooking demonstrations and live Q&As.

You can also get the latest on the restaurant scene and dining trends in Connecticut mailed directly to your inbox by subscribing to the Courant's Food & Drink newsletter. Please go to **courant.com/newsletters** for more information.

TANGERINES SHINE in Chinese-inspired dish

By Genevieve Ko
The New York Times

Peeling an orange releases a spritz of natural oils that coats fingers with a citrus perfume, teasing at the fruit inside. The floral zest and juicy segments are easy to love, but the pith in between, not so much.

In its raw state, the white pith is painfully bitter, but that bitterness is what makes eating the whole orange worthwhile. Usually, the peel is destined for the trash, but it has the potential to be delicious. When it's simmered to tenderness, it soaks up the cooking liquid's flavor while keeping its acerbic razor edge — just enough to slice through the fruit's straightforward sweet-tartness and highlight the hint of flower blossoms.

Using the entire orange is a smart move for desserts, as you can candy it whole or blend it into cake batter, but it also tastes great in savory dishes. The obvious example: orange chicken from Panda Express (and now, most Chinese takeout restaurants). Although there are no orange pieces among the little boulders of saucy fried chicken, the popular American Chinese dish took inspiration from Chinese dishes that use the fruit itself.

Almost 35 years ago, chef Andy Kao created the dish, along with Andrew Cherng, co-founder and chair of the company, for the first Hawaii location of Panda Express. They were inspired by many things, including the local flavors, as well as a Sichuan beef stir-fry with dried tangerine peels, a Taiwanese fried chicken dish and the sweet-and-sour flavors from the Jiangsu region of China.

"The concept of using citrus as an aromatic is actually a traditional principle in Chinese cooking," said Andrea Cherng, chief brand officer for the company. (I attended high school with Cherng.)

Like many American Chinese dishes — really, most dishes — a recipe is born of overlapping influences, even if it has a distinct origin story. The path to formulating a meal is less a straight highway than it is a twisty road.



For roasted orange chicken, the peel is as important as the juice in this fresh take on American Chinese home cooking. **JENNY HUANG/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

For this roasted orange chicken, one of my ways of cooking American Chinese food at home, the takeout version is just one source of inspiration. Another is whole tangerines, which season every element of the dish and have thin skins that lose their bitterness more quickly than oranges. After some fruit is juiced for the gingery soy glaze, their spent peels are stuffed into the chicken. More tangerine wedges cook alongside the bird in the same pan, their piths softening in the sauce that lacquers the bird.

The skin ends up deeply browned and the meat silky, reminiscent of the Cantonese soy sauce chicken I was raised on. As much as I love Chinese dried tangerine peels, their ocher fragments curved like petals but stiff as bark, I wanted the juiciness of fresh fruit in this preparation. You don't have to eat the tangerines in the pan, but, if you do, with a bite of chicken slicked with glaze, you'll taste the surprising pleasure of bitterness balanced with the simple joys of salty, sweet and sour.

And to drink ...

Sweet rieslings are a notoriously tough sell to Americans, even as they habitually buy both whites and reds that are surreptitiously slightly sweet. But this roasted orange chicken is a dish made for a modestly sweet German riesling, whether kabinett or spätlese style, or even sweeter, like an aged auslese. The sweetness will help the wine harmonize with the sweet, sour, bitter, savory flavors of the dish, while the pronounced acidity will keep things refreshing. Other sweet wines will go well, too, though perhaps not as well as riesling. You could try a Moscato d'Asti, if you would like a wine with bubbles, or a demi-sec Vouvray. This might also be an opportunity to crack that bottle of Sauternes you've saved for years. — *Eric Asimov*

Roasted orange chicken

Makes: 4 servings
Total time: 1 hour, 15 minutes
5 small tangerines or clementines
½ packed cup dark brown sugar
¼ cup soy sauce
1 ½ teaspoons rice vinegar or distilled white vinegar
1 teaspoon ground cayenne or other hot red ground chile
1 (4-pound) whole chicken
Salt and black pepper
8 slices peeled fresh ginger

1. Heat oven to 400 degrees.

2. Squeeze ¼ cup juice from 2 to 3 tangerines into a small bowl; reserve the spent peels. Cut the remaining tangerines into wedges with their peels intact, and set aside. Add the brown sugar, soy sauce, vinegar and cayenne to the tangerine juice and whisk until the sugar dissolves.

3. Generously season the chicken inside and out with salt and pepper. Tuck the wingtips behind the body. Stuff the tangerine peels and 6 ginger slices into the cavity, then tie the legs together using kitchen twine. Place in a large ovenproof skillet, and scatter the tangerine wedges and remaining 2 slices ginger around the chicken.

4. Slowly pour the juice mixture all over the chicken, then slide the skillet into the oven. Roast for 30 minutes.

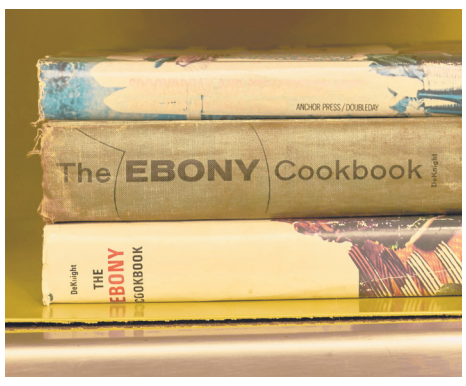
5. Using a large spoon or baster, quickly and carefully coat the chicken with the pan sauce. Continue roasting, basting every 10 minutes, until the chicken is browned and cooked through, 20 to 30 minutes longer. An instant-read thermometer inserted in the thickest part of the breast should register 155 degrees and, in the leg, 170 degrees. The chicken will continue to cook while it rests.

6. Transfer the chicken to a cutting board and let rest for about 5 minutes. If the pan sauce isn't already syrupy, bring it to a boil over medium-high heat on the stovetop. Be sure to wear oven mitts or use a kitchen towel to hold the skillet (the handle is hot). Cook, stirring occasionally, until the bubbles grow larger and paler brown, and the sauce is the consistency of syrup, about 5 minutes. Discard the ginger.

7. Serve the chicken whole or carved with the glaze poured all over the meat. Arrange the tangerine wedges from the pan around the bird. You can eat them, if you'd like.

Celebrating Black cuisine

Iconic Ebony test kitchen reborn in new exhibit



Freda DeKnight's cookbook, "A Date With a Dish," which was briefly renamed "The Ebony Cookbook," on display in the Ebony kitchen.

By Kayla Stewart
The New York Times

When Charlotte Lyons first stepped into the Ebony test kitchen in Chicago after becoming the magazine's food editor in 1985, one thought ran through her mind: "Whoa!"

Here, amid the psychedelic waves of orange, green and purple that swirled along the walls, Black cuisine was freed to be experimental and futuristic. For Ebony readers, the magazine's food was a central element of Black identity and pride.

When the kitchen was built in the early 1970s, it heralded the magazine's place in the culinary pantheon, a legacy that began a quarter-century before with Freda DeKnight, an exalted cook and food editor who paved a path for future generations of Black women in American food media.

"The Ebony kitchen was certainly one of the ways that a lot of people, both African American and non-African American, became aware of the vastness of the scope of African American food," said Jessica Harris, a food scholar and author of "High on the Hog: A Culinary Journey from Africa to America."

Harris is the lead curator for "African/American: Making the Nation's Table," an exhibition that opened in February at the Africa Center at Aliko Dangote Hall in Harlem where the kitchen, rebuilt and restored by the Museum of Food and Drink, a mobile museum based in Brooklyn, will be on display through June 19, which is Juneteenth.

Lee Bey, an adjunct professor of architecture at the Illinois Institute of Technology, said the look of the kitchen was almost indescribable. "I liken it to a kind of Afrocentric Modernism, where there are colors and fabrics, and leather and ostrich feathers and color and wallpaper with angled patterns on it and every floor looks different," he said.

When it was built a half-century ago, the Ebony kitchen was at the heart of Black American food culture in the media. John Johnson, the owner of Johnson Publishing Co. in Chicago, had built a headquarters that reflected Black creativity and innovation, which his company covered through some of the nation's foremost African American magazines, including Ebony and Jet.

John Moutoussamy designed the 11-story building, and the kitchen was outfitted by a team that included Arthur Elrod and William Raiser, both known for their adoration of Palm Springs décor, with then-state-of-the-art technology like grills, mixers, a hidden toaster, a trash compactor and a refrigerator with an ice and water dispenser.

It was almost lost to history. Johnson Publishing Co. closed the kitchen in 2010 and sold the building to a Chicago developer, but Landmarks Illinois, a preservation nonprofit, was able to save the kitchen before it was destroyed, buying it for $1. The Museum of Food and Drink took temporary ownership of the kitchen and moved it to New York, where it restored the room to its former funky glory.

Before the test kitchen's opening, some of the most important Black women in American food journalism had created the food coverage in Ebony, including DeKnight, who became the magazine's first food editor in 1946.

An enthusiastic traveler and "leading home economist," DeKnight traveled throughout the United States to learn the culinary traditions of Black American home cooks and to gain a deeper understanding of international cuisines and flavors. She shared her findings through recipes published in her monthly, photo-heavy column, "A Date With a Dish," which spoke to Black cooks with varying degrees of knowledge and experience. Many of those recipes were collected in "A Date With a Dish: A Cookbook of American Negro Recipes," published in 1948, which is among the first major African American cookbooks published for a Black audience.

"She understood that all over the country, there were Black people and Black professionals in every little city and in every single state, and that's exactly who she went after," said journalist Donna Battle Pierce, who is working on a book about DeKnight's life. "She said, 'I'm not writing this for anybody but us,' and I love that concept."

Ebony readers could share family recipes that would be tested by professional cooks and editors, and selected recipes would receive a $25 prize and a feature in the magazine. Internationally influenced recipes that DeKnight had grown to admire, such as rose petal pudding, fruitcake, peanut soup and mulligatawny soup, could be found among Ebony's pages, along with refinements to dishes that were perhaps more familiar to the Black American diaspora, including Ebony's stewed chicken and dumplings and Hoppin' John.

The column DeKnight started bloomed after her death in 1963. Under food editors Charla Draper and then Lyons, Ebony doubled down on the column, sharing stories that helped readers prepare dishes like turnips, mustard greens, fried catfish and oven fried chicken.

"So many people looked to Ebony for recipes that they were familiar with or had been part of our culture," Lyons said. "And I think that's why people loved that column so much. Maybe they didn't get the recipe for their grandmother's pancakes or sweet potato pie. But we could create it for them, and we would bring all of that stuff to life."

Along with the restored kitchen, visitors to the "African/American" exhibit in Harlem will learn about African American foodways, from agriculture and the culinary arts, hospitality, distilling and brewing to entrepreneurship and migration.

A colorful legacy quilt that recognizes 406 African American contributions in food will greet guests as they enter the exhibit. A rotating shoebox lunch tasting, curated by chefs like Carla Hall, Adrienne Cheatham and Kwame Onwuachi, will end the experience for an additional fee, allowing visitors to engage with a tradition African Americans experienced while traveling through the segregated Deep South.

"These stories are important," said Catherine Piccoli, curatorial director of the Museum of Food and Drink, which organized the "African/American" exhibit. "We need to be able to share them. We need to be able to acknowledge our shared history of trauma and of racism and also celebrate African American ingenuity, creativity and foodways."

The celebration begins by engaging with the test kitchen, a space that could've so easily been lost.

"It is not only the place from which much emanated, but it is also a thing that is with us that we still have," Harris said. "There are so many things that we don't have, that this is doubly to be revered because it did survive, and only barely."



The Ebony test kitchen, which for decades operated in Chicago, is on view as part of the exhibition "African/American: Making the Nation's Table," at the Africa Center in New York. The vibrant room is the centerpiece of a new exhibition in Harlem focused on the African American food experience. **TIMOTHY SMITH/THE NEW YORK TIMES PHOTOS**



The Ebony kitchen was "one of the ways that a lot of people, both African American and non-African American, became aware of the vastness of the scope of African American food," says Jessica Harris, lead curator for "African/American: Making the Nation's Table" at the Africa Center in Harlem.

Honey-glazed carrots

These sweet, citrusy carrots are an ideal accompaniment to savory, hearty main dishes, like Ebony's stewed chicken and dumplings from the magazine's first food editor, Freda DeKnight. This adaptation streamlines the usage of a pot and baking dish in the original and requires only a single ovenproof skillet. The dish tastes just the same and reflects DeKnight's commitment to fresh ingredients and vibrant flavors in her cooking.

Makes: 2 to 4 servings
Total time: 40 minutes
6 to 8 carrots, peeled
2 tablespoons orange juice
2 tablespoons honey
1 tablespoon butter
Salt
1 tablespoon finely chopped parsley
1. Heat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Fill an ovenproof skillet that can fit the carrots with 1 to 2 inches of water. Bring to a boil over high heat. Add the carrots and add more water if needed to cover the carrots. Reduce the heat to simmer the carrots until they're tender but not soft, about 15 minutes.
3. Pour the water out of the skillet, keeping the carrots in the skillet by holding them back with a spatula. Add the juice, honey and butter to the skillet and stir to mix (the butter may not melt all the way). Roll the carrots in the mixture, season them with salt and transfer to the oven.
4. Bake, gently rolling the carrots once, until the carrots are glazed, about 15 minutes. Season to taste with salt and sprinkle with parsley.

Ebony's stewed chicken and dumplings

This warming dish remains a constant in African American cuisine. Comforting and indulgent, it follows a formula that was familiar to Ebony's audience. Published in 1962, the original recipe from food editor Freda DeKnight called for a 4 ½- to 5-pound stewing hen that, she wrote, could take 2 to 3 ½ hours to cook "depending on the age and quality of the bird." Today, smaller, fresh young chickens are readily available in most supermarkets, so the meat becomes tender much more quickly, making it easier to dig into this one-bowl meal even faster.

Makes: 4 servings
Total time: 1 hour, 15 minutes
For the chicken:
1 (4-pound) whole chicken
½ cup chopped onion
½ cup chopped celery with tops
1 ½ teaspoons fine salt
½ teaspoon flavor enhancer, such as Ac'cent or chicken bouillon granules
¼ teaspoon garlic salt
¼ teaspoon paprika
For the dumplings:
1 cup all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
½ teaspoon sugar
½ teaspoon fine salt
½ cup whole milk
2 tablespoons finely chopped parsley, plus more for garnish
1. Prepare the chicken: Cut chicken into 8 pieces with the back bones (2 breasts, 2 thighs, 2 drumsticks, 2 wings). You also can buy the chicken already cut up. Place in a large, heavy cooking pot or Dutch oven and add onion, celery, salt, flavor enhancer, garlic salt, paprika and enough cold water to just cover meat (about 4 cups).
2. Cover and bring to a boil over high heat. Skim any foam from the surface, then reduce the heat to low and simmer gently until the chicken is almost completely tender, about 45 minutes.
3. When the chicken is almost done, make the dumplings: Whisk the flour, baking powder, sugar and salt in a medium bowl. Add the milk and stir to form a thick, smooth batter.
4. Uncover the pot and drop heaping teaspoons of the dumpling batter on top of the chicken, spacing apart slightly. Sprinkle with the parsley and cover the pot. Cook for 20 minutes without lifting the lid. If you cut into a dumpling, the dough should be cooked through to the center. Serve the chicken and dumplings on a platter or in serving dishes, garnished with more parsley.
— Recipes from Freda DeKnight; adapted by Kayla Stewart

How the internet has left its mark on terroir

Social media has created new wine cultures, regardless of proximity

By Eric Asimov
The New York Times



TIM ROBINSON/THE NEW YORK TIMES

I've often written that the best wine is an expression of culture. This is easy enough to understand in historic wine-producing regions, where centuries of local traditions helped to shape the identity of the wines.

But what about more recent wine regions like California or Australia, where decisions about grapes, methods and styles of wine have often been made by individual entrepreneurs motivated by commercial expedience or ego? The cultural antecedents of many wines from the 20th century, made without community involvement, were more difficult to trace.

Over the last 20 years or so, though, the internet and social media have tied people around the world closer and closer together, creating new wine cultures regardless of physical proximity. Growers and producers who might once have been isolated can now be a part of community efforts, perhaps adding to our understanding of terroir and a sense of place.

These communities can share thoughts and ideas, ask questions and discuss solutions regardless of how far apart they might be physically. Natural wine producers in the Adelaide Hills of Australia, for example, have instant access to colleagues in the Loire Valley of France or the Emilia-Romagna region of Italy. A syrah producer in Sonoma can get together weekly to kick back or talk business with friends in Cornas.

What is gained by this ability to communicate? Answers to questions, encouragement, guidance, being talked off the ledge — things that come from participating in a community in real time. All of these elements help to improve not only the general quality of wines but also the ability to make distinctive wines.

Like-minded cultural groups form in this way, directly influencing the sorts of wines that are made. Let me amplify that with some background.

What constitutes a sense of place, or terroir, to use the all-encompassing French term, has evolved over time. A century ago, terroir referred to the immutable physical characteristics of a place that shaped the identity of a wine.

This included the geology — the soil and bedrock, the altitude and inclination toward the sun. It included the climate, the source of the water necessary for the vines and how that water drained into the earth. It included the flora and fauna of a particular area.

As science has gained a greater understanding of the physical world, this notion of terroir has expanded. Flora and fauna now include the microbial life in a vineyard, both the yeast and other organisms in the air and on the grapes as well as the microorganisms in the soil.

One more element has come to be understood as part of terroir: the people farming the grapes and making the wines, particularly if these people are part of a culture of shared ideas.

This culture comprises the traditions of communities defined by geographical proximity, including the grapes that are grown in the area, the viticultural and winemaking techniques, the tools and equipment as well as attitudes and ways of thinking.

This is why you can travel from one part of Italy, for example, to another, even across a valley, and find a different sort of wine, made with different grapes using different methods.

It's also why, in much of the historic wine-producing world, wines were identified with geographical terms — Volnay or Chinon, say — rather than the names of grapes. The geographical designation was all that was needed to understand that a wine made by the people of Volnay would have a particular flavor, and that the wine of Chinon would offer another.

As wine cultures developed locally, they were also exported. The ancient Greeks and especially the Romans brought their ways of thinking about wine to whatever distant places they roamed. In the Middle Ages, monastic communities like the Benedictines and the Cistercians spread the gospel of wine to different parts of Europe.

No place has embraced the intricacies of terroir so much as Burgundy. People there don't just believe that a Gevrey-Chambertin tastes different from a Chambolle-Musigny, they know it does with every fiber of their being.

All of this makes sense in wine-producing regions with centuries of traditions. But what about newer wine regions without such long histories handed down over generations?

Colonizing missionaries brought vineyards and wine to South America in the 16th and 17th centuries and to California in the 18th century. Many other vineyards in California were planted in the 19th century by immigrants trying to recreate as best they could the traditions of their birth countries.

It would have been interesting to see how these vineyards and winemakers would have evolved, but their development and connection to the modern era effectively ended during Prohibition.

The modern American wine industry that arose after World War II is rooted in entrepreneurship rather than cultural tradition. Which grapes to plant, where to plant them and how to make the wine were largely business decisions rather than the organic evolution of a way of life.

The element of culture is the most significant difference between Old World and New World winemaking regions. While the Old World-New World construction can strike some as condescending and meaningless today, I think it applies when speaking to cultural influences.

Thanks to the internet, growers and producers are no longer consigned to isolated and insular groups, except by choice. But the creation of far-flung wine communities is not something that happened solely because of the internet. It simply accelerated a process of mental and emotional globalization that has gone on since World War II.

The internet is only the latest in a procession that includes telephones, televisions and jet planes, and of course the postwar prosperity that enabled people to make use of these tools.

Since the 1970s and '80s, young people going into wine, whether they were the next generation of a winemaking family or new to the wine world, have often traveled to other countries for internships and working stints in other wine cultures. They've brought back what they've learned and integrated it into their own bottles.

Over the years, perhaps, they were able to maintain relationships and touch base when gathering at festivals and events around the world. Now the internet has enabled this integration to continue.

At one point, globalization in the wine world prompted fear that homogenization was paramount, that the great diversity of grapes and wine styles would dwindle, and the world would drown in a stultifying sea of chardonnay and cabernet sauvignon.

Instead, the opposite has occurred. The world continues to embrace and explore the potential of grapes both new and old, from places long esteemed and areas dismissed for generations.

It's commerce and connection, and maybe also a new wine culture.

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Even though we think of Brussels sprouts for the holidays, creamy Brussels sprouts slaw would make a killer picnic dish. **CARRIE CROW**



Vegan Asian Napa cabbage slaw is made with sesame, soy sauce, rice vinegar, ginger and honey. **CHEYENNE COHEN**

Slaws expand definition of salad

By Katie Workman
Associated Press

As we make our way toward the end of winter, what is seasonally available influences what we want to eat and what we cook. In the main course department, we tend to turn to dishes like slow roasts, braises, stews. But in many households, dinner isn't complete without a salad. And unlike in summer, when fluffy lettuces, juicy tomatoes and fresh herbs abound, the pickings feel slimmer.

This is when our definition of salad could use some expansion and creativity.

Enter: slaws. Or coleslaws — what's the difference? Really nothing. Technically, coleslaw involves cabbage, whether green, red or napa, while the category of slaws can include all kinds of chopped or shredded crunchy vegetables. The two words are used interchangeably for the most part, however.

Merriam-Webster Dictionary says "coleslaw" comes from the Dutch "koolsla," which combines "kool" (cabbage) and "sla" (salad). At its simplest, classic American coleslaw is a mixture of chopped or grated cabbage with mayonnaise, vinegar and maybe a bit of sugar, plus salt and pepper.

Many think of slaws primarily in the summer, when we are grilling outdoors or hosting a barbecue for friends. And that's a shame, because since slaws are made from cabbage and other hardy vegetables, especially root vegetables, they are perfect for the cold-weather cooking months.

Slaws don't get soggy as quickly as leaf lettuce salads, so they can stay in the fridge for a day or two, sometimes longer. They make use of seasonal produce, and offer a nice change of pace from cooked vegetables on the plate.

They can be colorful and highly nutritious, and recipes are usually quite flexible. Once you get the basic shredding or chopping technique down and find a simple slaw dressing that you like, you can keep changing things up until baby lettuces and asparagus appear in the markets again.

So, other than cabbage, what vegetables can be used to make slaws? Carrots, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, kohlrabi, beets, zucchini, summer squash, cucumber, bell peppers and winter squashes are some candidates. Even the harder vegetables can be used raw: The key is to shred them finely and peel off any tough skin. Remove any seeds from vegetables like squashes, cucumber or peppers.

To shred cabbage for slaw, you have a few choices. To do it by hand, first remove any dinged-up outer leaves and then quarter the cabbage. Cut the core out of each quarter. Place each chunk of cabbage on a cutting board and, using a large, sharp knife, thinly slice the cabbage crosswise to create thin shreds.

You can also use a mandoline, or the slicing or shredding attachment of a food processor. I like the slicing blade better than the grating blade for cabbage, as the grating blade creates tiny bits that don't have as much appealing texture. But you can definitely use a handheld box grater or the shredding blade for hardier vegetables, like beets or carrots.

Other popular add-ins for slaws include raisins or other dried fruits, nuts, apples, grapes, celery, bacon, onions or scallions, sugar snap peas, corn and fresh herbs.

Basic creamy slaw dressing

½ cup mayonnaise
½ cup sour cream (or additional mayonnaise)
2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
½ cup minced scallions or green onions, or red onion
Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper, to taste
Blend all of the ingredients together in a large bowl. Add about 6 cups of shredded cabbage or other vegetables. You can also add a couple of tablespoons of minced, seeded jalapeno peppers or a squirt of hot sauce if you want to amp up the heat level.

Vegan Asian Napa cabbage slaw

Makes: 8 servings
½ cup unseasoned rice vinegar
¼ cup less-sodium soy sauce
1 tablespoon toasted sesame oil
1 tablespoon honey
1 teaspoon peeled and minced fresh ginger
1 head Napa cabbage
4 carrots peeled and grated
1 red bell pepper cored and thinly sliced
3 shallots halved and thinly sliced
1. In a large bowl, combine the rice vinegar, soy sauce, sesame oil, honey and ginger. Add the cabbage, carrots, bell pepper and shallots, and toss to combine.
2. Cover and refrigerate for 1 day. If you haven't planned ahead, let it sit in the fridge or at room temperature for at least 1 hour before serving, so the vegetables soften slightly and absorb the dressing.

Creamy Brussels sprouts slaw

Makes: 6 servings
1 pound Brussels sprouts sliced and then roughly chopped (see note)
¼ cup mayonnaise
2 tablespoons olive oil
1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
1 tablespoon fresh lime juice
2 tablespoons fresh orange juice
1 tablespoon honey
½ cup small diced red onion
Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper, to taste
½ cup finely grated Parmesan
½ cup dried cranberries or cherries, optional
½ cup pumpkin seeds, optional
1. Place the Brussels sprouts in a large bowl.
2. In a small bowl or container, combine the mayonnaise, olive oil, mustard, lime juice, orange juice, honey, red onion and salt and pepper.
3. Pour the dressing over the Brussels sprouts and toss to combine well. Add the Parmesan, dried cranberries and pumpkin seeds and toss again. Transfer to a serving bowl.
Note: Buy thinly sliced Brussels sprouts and give them a rough chop on a cutting board. Or use whole Brussels sprouts, run them into the chute of a food processor and through the slicing blade, then roughly chop with a knife.



Using the right combination of sugars and shaping techniques guarantees thick and chewy cookies. **KENDRA SMITH/AMERICA'S TEST KITCHEN**

Tricks for baking thick, chewy cookies every time

America's Test Kitchen

Thick cookies are often chewy cookies — and we made recipe choices to create cookies that are nice and thick. First, we use more brown sugar than white sugar. Brown sugar contains more water, so it helps make cookies moister and chewier.

Next, we let the dough rest for 30 minutes before shaping and baking the cookies. As the dough rests, the flour absorbs some of the water in the dough. The dough's texture thickens up, which means that it won't spread as much in the oven. We don't press these cookies flat before baking, which helps prevent them from spreading and keeps them thicker.

Finally, removing the cookies from the oven when they look almost done helps maintain their chewy texture.

Chewy chocolate cookies

Makes: 12 cookies
½ cup (2 ½ ounces) all-purpose flour
2 tablespoons Dutch-processed cocoa powder
½ teaspoon baking powder
¼ teaspoon salt
⅔ cup (4 ounces) semisweet chocolate chips
2 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened
⅓ cup packed (2 ⅓ ounces) light brown sugar
2 tablespoons sugar
1 large egg
½ teaspoon vanilla extract
1. In a medium bowl, whisk together flour, cocoa, baking powder and salt.
2. Place chocolate chips in a medium microwave-safe bowl. Heat in microwave at 50% power until melted, 2 to 3 minutes. Use a rubber spatula to stir chocolate until completely melted and smooth.
3. In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment (or in a large bowl if using a handheld mixer), combine softened butter and the sugars. Mix on medium speed until well combined, about 1 ½ minutes. Scrape down bowl.
4. Add egg, vanilla and melted chocolate. Mix on low speed until combined, about 2 minutes. Scrape down bowl.
5. Add flour mixture. Mix on low speed until combined, about 1 minute. Scrape down bowl and stir in any remaining dry flour. Cover bowl with plastic wrap. Let dough sit at room temperature for 30 minutes.
6. Meanwhile, adjust oven rack to middle position and heat oven to 350 degrees. Line rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper.
7. When dough is ready, use your hands to roll dough into 12 balls (about 1 heaping tablespoon each). Place dough balls on a parchment-lined baking sheet, arranging them in staggered rows and leaving 2 inches of space between balls.
8. Bake cookies until edges have just begun to set, but centers are still very soft, 12 to 14 minutes. Transfer baking sheet to a cooling rack. Let cookies cool completely on the baking sheet, about 30 minutes. Serve.
Note: We prefer Dutch-processed cocoa powder in this recipe.

SERIOUSLY SIMPLE

Spring is the time to enjoy these baked stuffed artichokes

By Diane Rossen Worthington
Tribune Content Agency



Baking the artichokes whole preserves their shape. **DREAMSTIME**

This is the beginning of the spring season for fresh artichokes. Don't worry if they are a little brown, which sometimes comes from a light frost before harvesting. You will usually find that these are the tastiest and have large hearts. Make sure to select globe artichokes that have tight, compact heads and tiny thorns.

At the beginning of artichoke season, I like to cook up a few whole ones and serve them chilled, warm or even grilled. An alternate cooking method is to stuff and bake them. I enjoyed these while visiting Italy, and when I came home, I re-created that taste memory. Baking the artichokes whole preserves their shape.

This recipe fills them with an Italian-influenced mixture of breadcrumbs, tomatoes, garlic, herbs and Parmesan cheese, stuffed between the layers of leaves. As you pull off leaves, you taste both the artichoke and the complementary stuffing. This dish is hearty enough to serve as a vegetarian main course along with a bowl of your favorite vegetable soup or mixed green salad. Consider serving these on St. Patrick's Day since they are green.

Baked artichokes with breadcrumbs, tomatoes and Parmesan

Makes: 4 servings
4 large artichokes
2 tablespoons white vinegar
1 teaspoon olive oil
For the filling:
3 tablespoons plus olive oil
3 medium tomatoes, seeded and finely diced
4 garlic cloves, minced
3 tablespoons finely chopped fresh basil
3 tablespoons finely chopped parsley
3 cups coarse fresh French breadcrumbs
½ cup plus 2 tablespoons freshly grated Parmesan cheese
½ cup chicken stock
Salt
Freshly ground black pepper
1. Using a serrated knife, slice about ½-inch crosswise off the tops of the artichokes to remove the main cluster of thorns. Pull the small leaves off the bottom (near the stem) of the artichoke and discard. Trim the stems flush with the bottoms. Using sharp scissors, cut ½-inch off the top of the outer leaves to remove the thorny tips.
2. Fill a large pan half-full of water and add the vinegar and 1 teaspoon of olive oil. Cover the pan and bring water to a boil over high heat. Add the artichokes, cover and simmer until the bottoms (where the stems were) pierce easily, 40 to 50 minutes. (Smaller artichokes will cook a bit faster). Use tongs to remove artichokes and place them on a rack, stems up, to drain as they cool.
3. Meanwhile, make the filling: In a medium bowl, combine the tomatoes, garlic, basil, parsley and 1 tablespoon of the olive oil. Stir in the breadcrumbs. Mix in the Parmesan cheese, salt and pepper. Taste for seasoning.
4. Preheat the oven to 425 F. When the artichokes are cool, turn them upright on their stems and gently pull open the leaves from the center. Pull out the sharp-tipped inner leaves and use a teaspoon to scrape out and discard the fuzzy center in the bottoms.
5. Spoon some of the filling into the center cavity of each artichoke, then spoon the remaining filling in between the outer leaves.
6. Arrange stuffed artichokes in a baking dish. Combine the stock and remaining 2 tablespoons of oil in a small bowl, and drizzle over the tops of the artichokes. Bake for about 10 to 15 minutes, or until the stuffing turns golden, watching to make sure the tips of the artichoke leaves don't get too brown. Serve immediately.
Advance preparation: Artichokes may be prepared one day in advance through Step 5, covered and refrigerated. Bring to room temperature before continuing.